

SPICE & WOLF

VOL. 14

A close-up illustration of a white dog's face, with its head tilted back and eyes closed, appearing to be in a state of exhaustion or deep sleep. In the background, a woman with long, flowing red hair is shown from the side, her face partially obscured by her hair. She is wearing a dark, high-collared garment. The overall atmosphere is intimate and dramatic.

STORY:
ISUNA HASEKURA
ART:
KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF



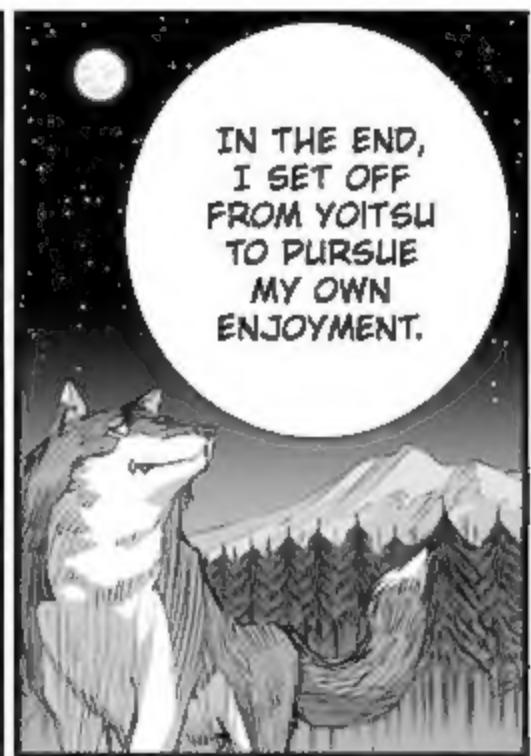
SPICE & WOLF

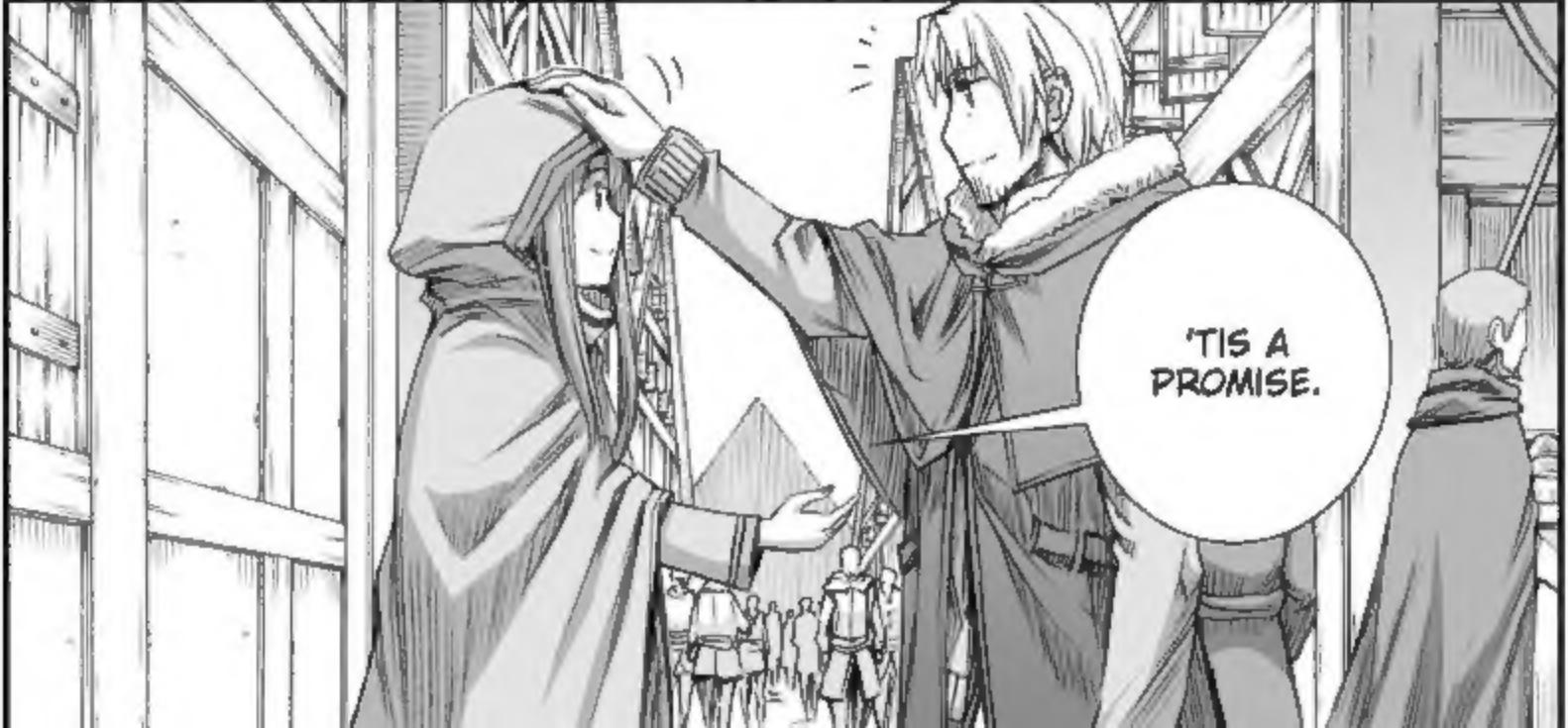
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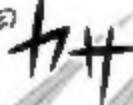




BUT ONCE I'D MADE UP MY MIND, I HAD TO THINK IT THROUGH POSITIVELY AND GO WITH IT, WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT HOW IT WOULD SEEM TO ONLOOKERS.

...IN A NEW TOWN OUTSIDE THE ASSOCIATION'S INFLUENCE, WITH THE MONEY I HAVE ON ME.

I'M BUYING A STORE ON A STREET THAT DOESN'T HAVE A NAME YET...

KASA CRUSTLE! 

WHAT SORT OF FOOLISH REASON?

BUT IF I GIVE A SEEMINGLY FOOLISH REASON FOR IT, IT BECOMES MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE.

WHAT IF THE DEBALI COMPANY EXPANDED THE TOWN AS LARGE AS IT COULD...

...AND CREATED A HUGE ECONOMIC SPHERE?

HMM, FOR EXAMPLE...



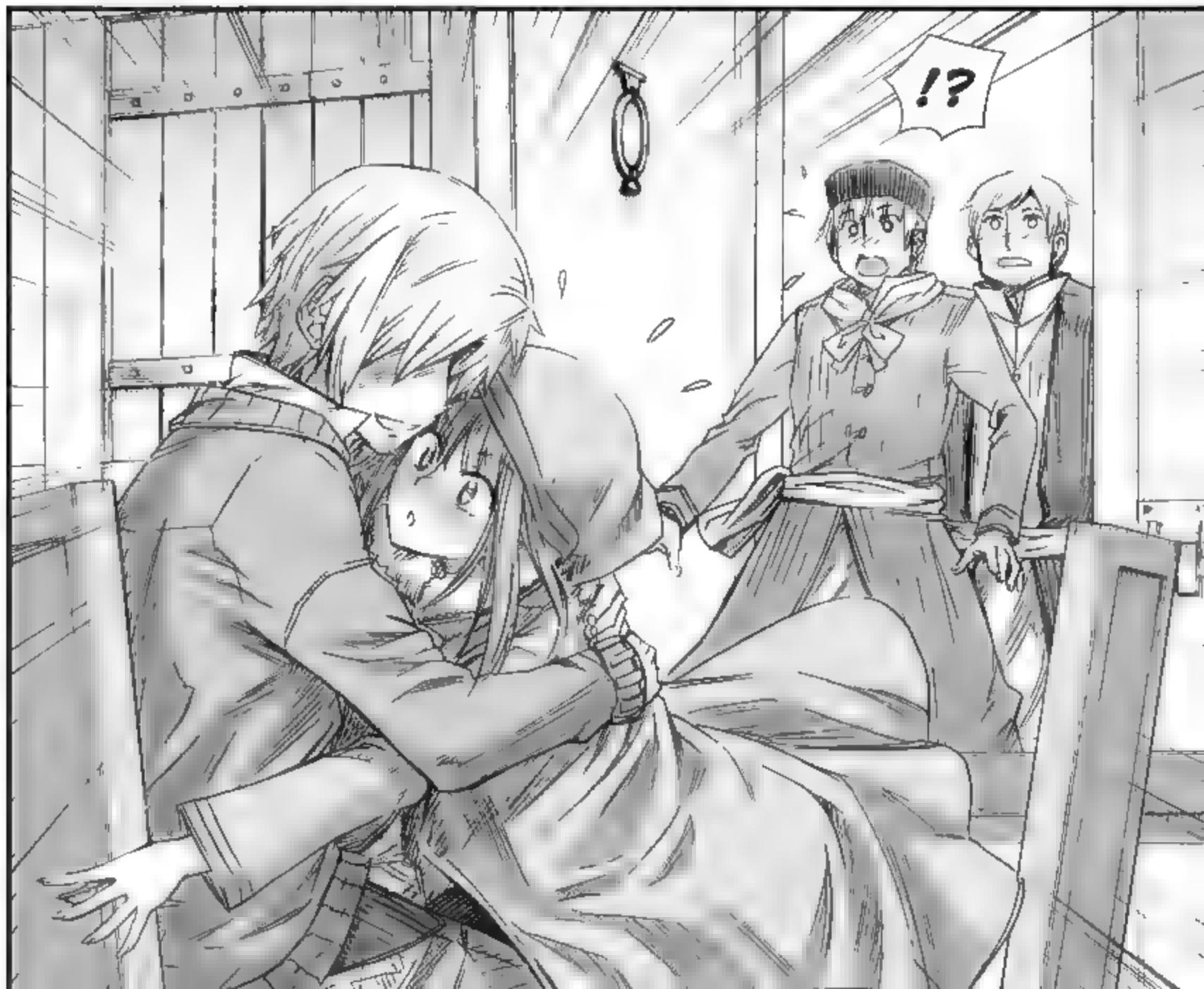


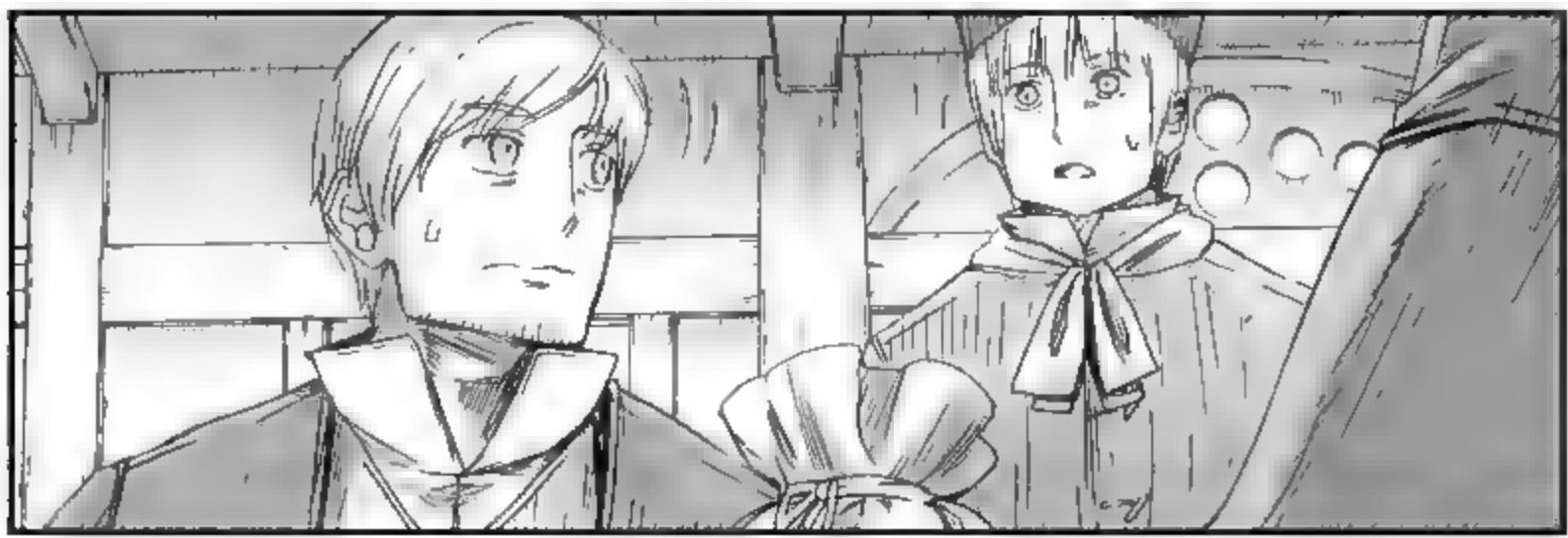
THAT WAS WHY IT WAS A WALL-LESS, VULNERABLE TOWN THAT DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER INTIMIDATION BY MILITARY FORCE...



THE NOBLES MAKING LARGE INVESTMENTS IN THE TOWN WERE SURELY THE SAME.





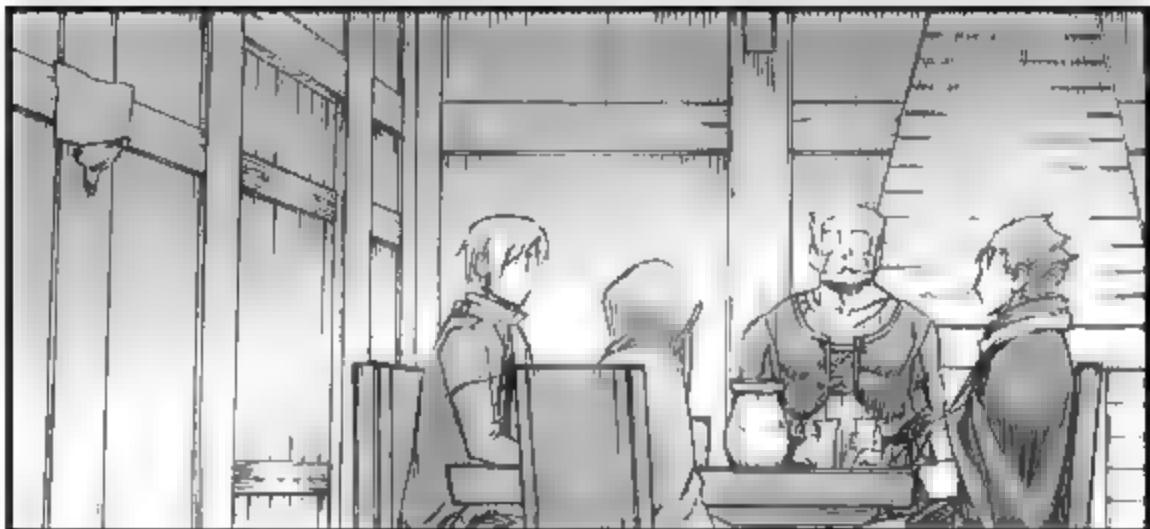














YES.
BUT THEY
WON'T DO IT
THROUGH
MILITARY
MIGHT.





NOW,
IT SHOULD BE
THAT THE TRENNI
SILVER PIECE IS
INDISPENSABLE
IN THE
NORTHLANDS.



...AND
CONVERTED ALL
FOURTEEN KINDS
OF COIN THAT HAVE
BEEN CIRCULATING
IN THE NORTHLANDS
TO THE TRENNI
SILVER PIECE.

THE DEBAU
COMPANY
DEVELOPED
THE TOWN
OF LESKO...

IT'S UNLIKELY
THE ONES THAT
HAVE ALREADY
INVESTED WOULD
REFUSE...

I'M
SURE THEY'VE
ALREADY MADE
A PROPOSAL TO
THE LORDS—

BUT
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH THEY
COLLECT, IT
WILL RUN OUT
EVENTUALLY...

"TO CONTINUE
STABLY DEVELOPING
THIS TOWN, IT WILL
BE NECESSARY TO
ISSUE NEW COINAGE.
WE ASK FOR YOUR
COOPERATION."

THE LORDS
JUST HAVEN'T
REALIZED YET
THAT THEY'VE
DEVOLVED
INTO PIGS
BLINDED BY
MONEY.

GUU
(GLUG)



SPICE & WOLF

I DID
NOT THINK
THE POWER
OF MONEY
WAS AS
TREMENDOUS
AS THIS.

I'M GLAD
YOU WERE
HERE, MR.
LAWRENCE.

MOIZI AND
I WEREN'T
LOOKING FULLY
AT THE TRUTH,
I SUPPOSE.

朧

朧

朧

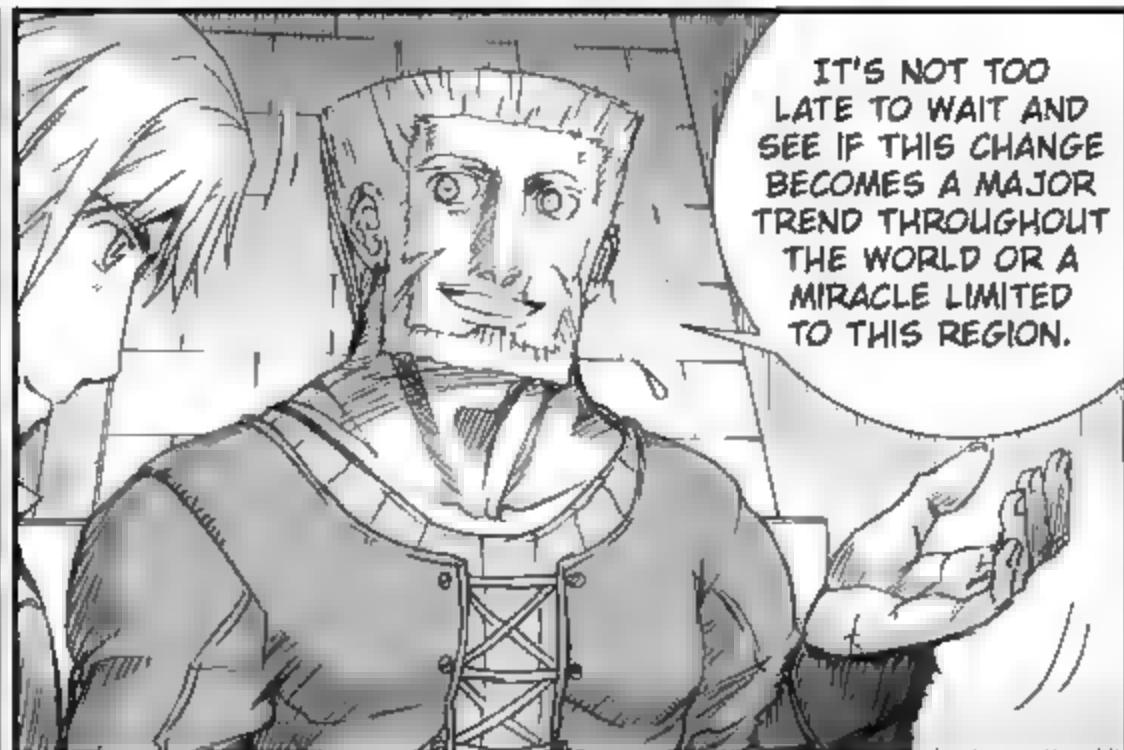


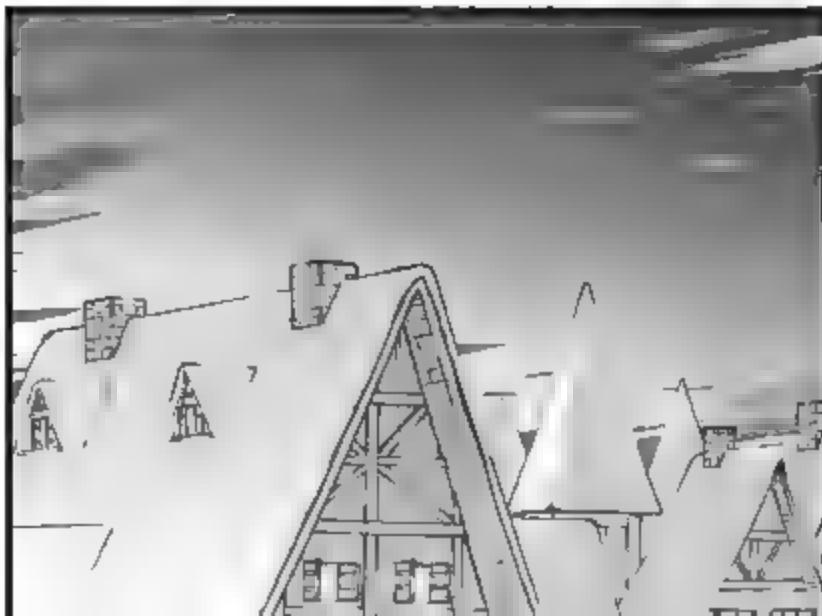


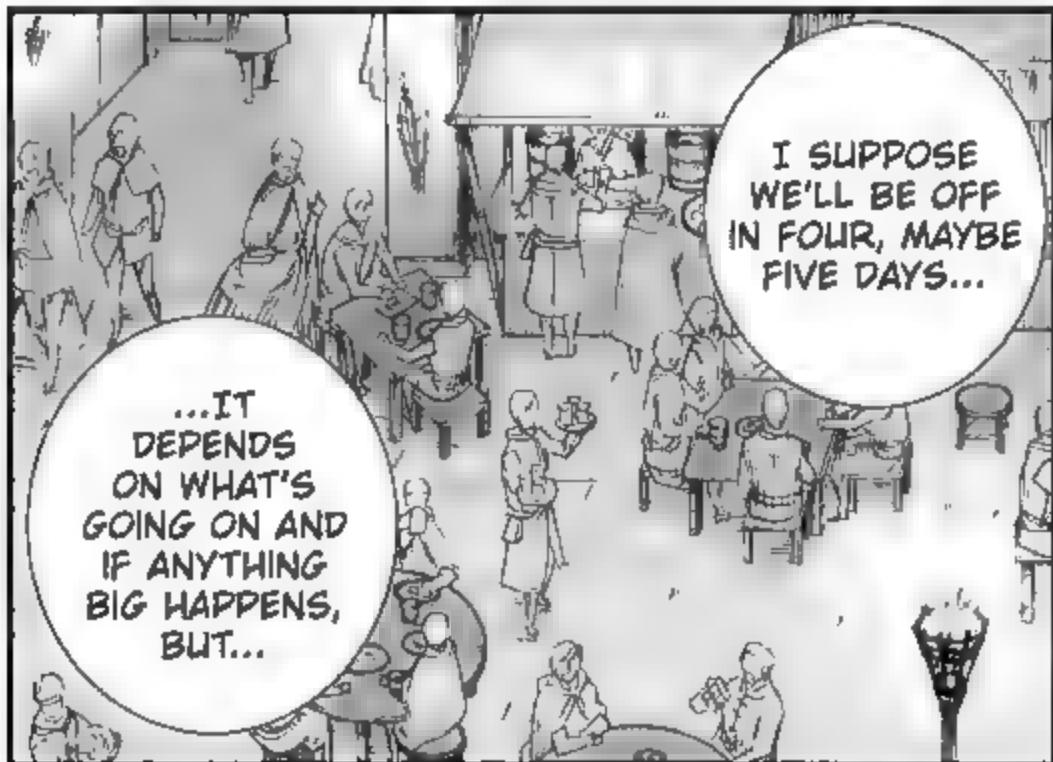
AT
SOME POINT,
NOBLEMEN
CEASED TO BE
KNIGHTS, AND
KINGS NEVER
LEFT THEIR
CASTLES.













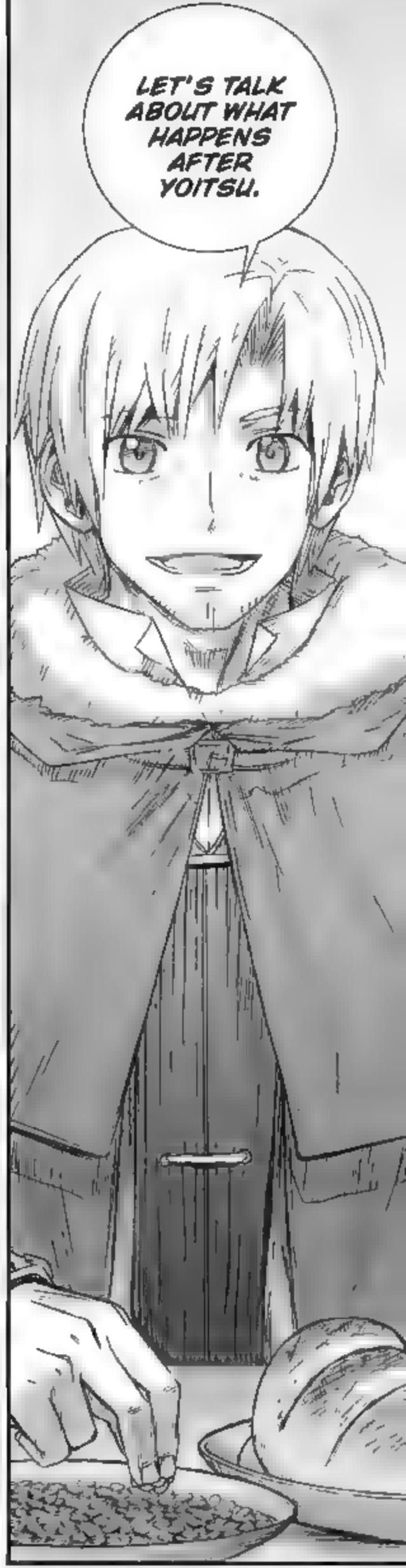


















AND YOU
FULFILLED
YOUR
PROMISE
TO ME.

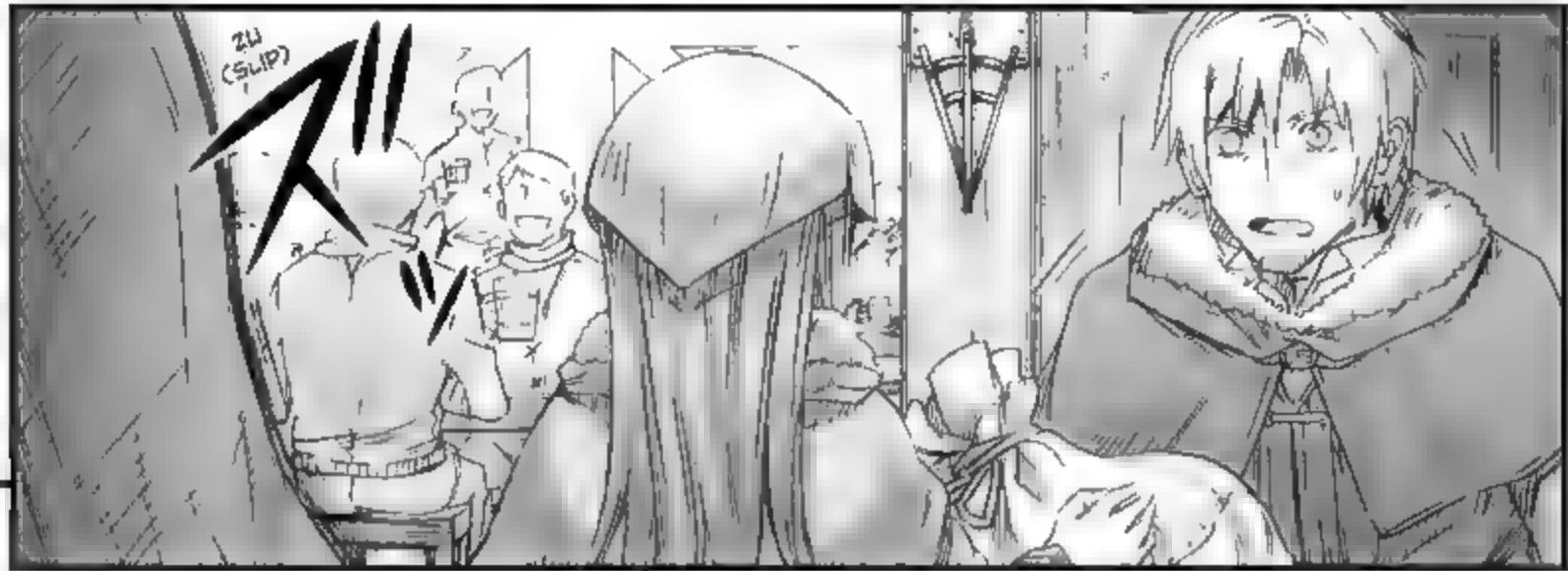
GOTO
(THUNK)

SO AS FOR
WHAT COMES
AFTER...





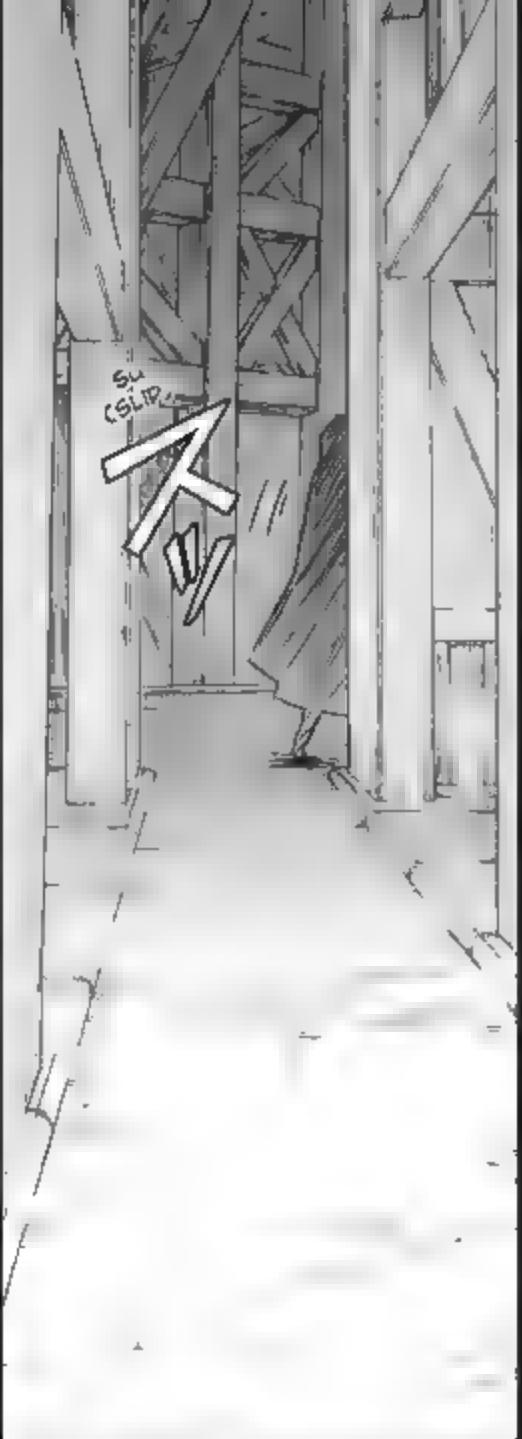


















SPICE & WOLF





HE
SMELLS OF
SOMEONE
ESTRANGED
FROM AN
HONEST
LIFE.



MAY
I ASK
WHAT IS
GOING
ON?

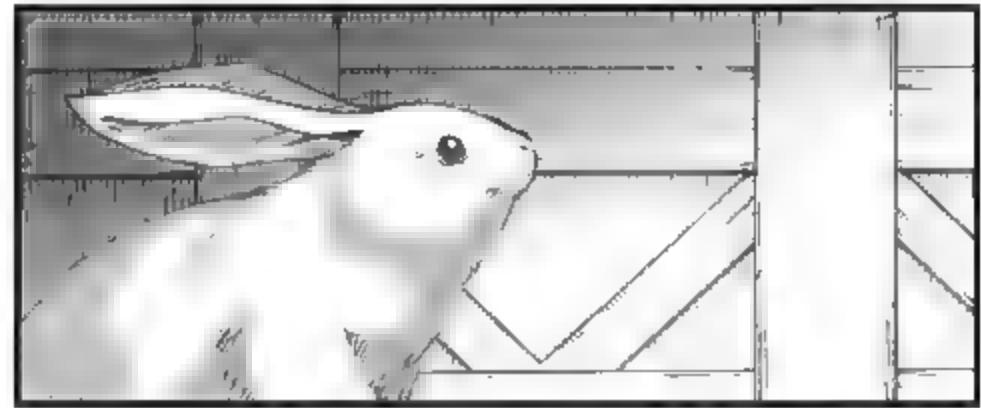


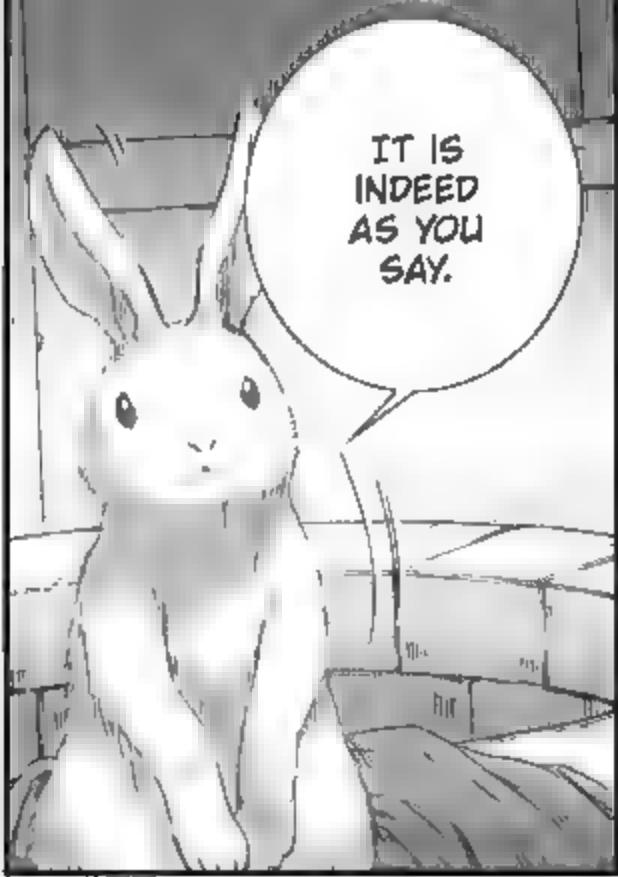
HOWEVER,
WITH YOUR
COOPERATION,
WE MAY BE
ABLE TO AVERT
DISASTER.

THE
NORTHLANDS
ARE IN
UNPRECEDENTED
PERIL.



INTERNALLY,
THE DEBALI
COMPANY IS
CURRENTLY
AT ODDS...





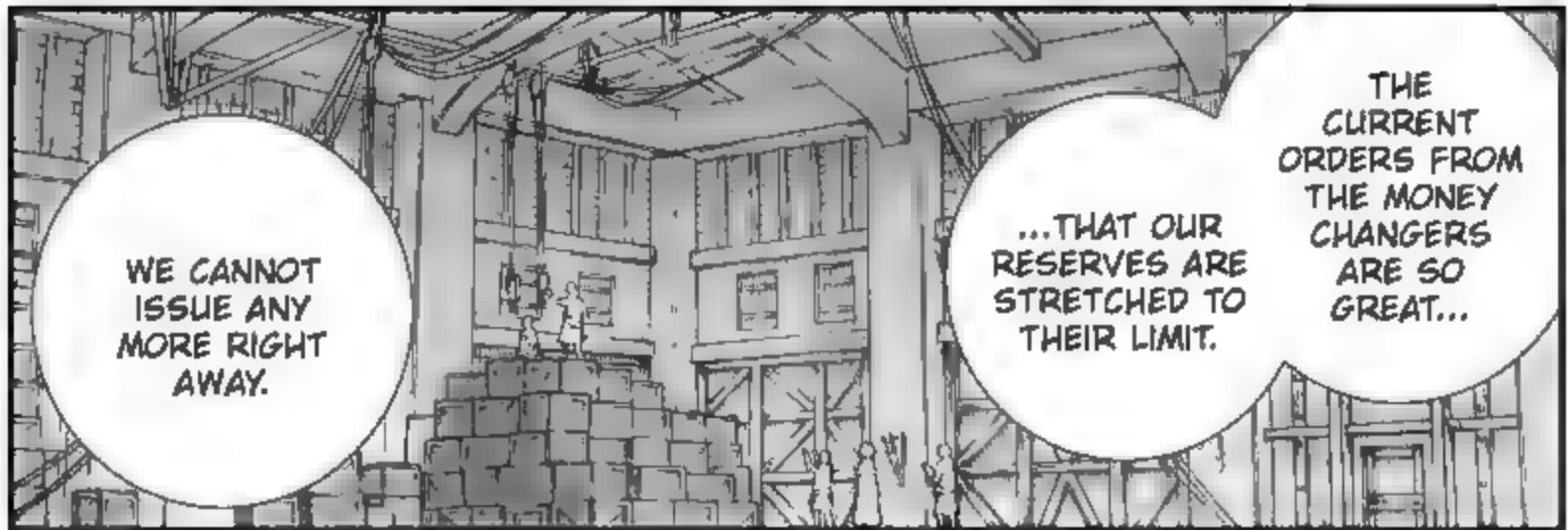


THIS IS A WINDFALL SURPASSING ANY SEEN IN THE HISTORY OF THEIR HOUSES.

...ESPECIALLY THE NOBLES DIVIDING THE NEW CURRENCY AMONGST THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE.









IN FACT,
THERE ARE A
NUMBER OF RULERS
AND TOWNS THAT
HAVE CLOSED
THEIR GATES IN
OPPOSITION TO
OUR PLANS.



THOSE
WITH GREEDY
EYES ARE NOW
FERVENTLY URGING
THAT WE ATTACK
THESE SUPPLY-
RICH PLACES.



...AND STILL
ADVOCATE
FOR THIS.

THE
RULERS
ON OUR
SIDE COVET
THESE VERY
TERRITORIES



...AND TO
DIMINISH THEIR
FERVOR, WE
REQUIRE YOUR
FORBIDDEN BOOK
THAT CONTAINS
TECHNIQUES FOR
EXCAVATING
MINES.

YES...



SO THERE
ARE PEOPLE
WITHIN THE
DEBALI COMPANY
WHO SUPPORT
THESE BARBARIC
NOTIONS?

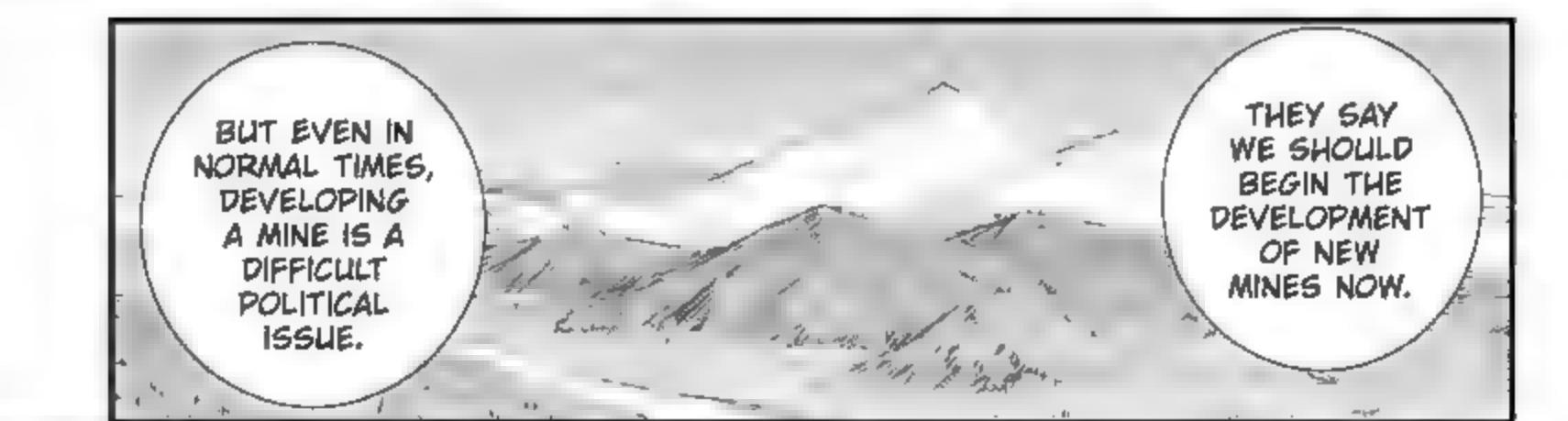
YORO
(STAGGER)



THEY ARE STRESSING THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR CURRENT MINES GOING DRY.



THEY ARE NOT MERELY SUGGESTING TAKING THAT WHICH WE LACK...



THOSE URGING AGGRESSION ARE THINKING RATIONALLY, IN A SENSE.



BUT EVEN IN NORMAL TIMES, DEVELOPING A MINE IS A DIFFICULT POLITICAL ISSUE.



THEY SAY WE SHOULD BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MINES NOW.



IF THE DEBAU COMPANY COULD TRULY PULL THE NORTHLANDS TOGETHER—THEN THEY COULD BECOME LORDS OF THEIR OWN IN NO TIME.



RAGING AVARICE, DESIRE FOR PROFITS, AND OBSTACLES THAT MUST BE ELIMINATED IN ORDER TO LINE EVERYTHING UP...



AND DOES NOT ROBBING THE TREASURE CHESTS OF TOWNS AND BRINGING DOWN THEIR RULERS KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...?



HOWEVER, WITH THE COMPANY SO VIGOROUS RIGHT NOW, WHY NOT SIMPLY GAIN LANDS RICH IN ORE DEPOSITS?



I DON'T THINK ANYONE WHO OPPOSES THE DEBAU COMPANY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE LEFT ALIVE.



IS IT NOT LOGICAL TO OBTAIN THEM WHILE WE STILL CAN?

HOWEVER, IF WE HAD YOUR FORBIDDEN BOOK, WE COULD AT LEAST DISRUPT THE MINE-DEPLETION ARGUMENT.

...THEIR GREED WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL THE NORTHLANDS ARE AN ASHEN WASTELAND...

I'M GOING TO THROW UP...

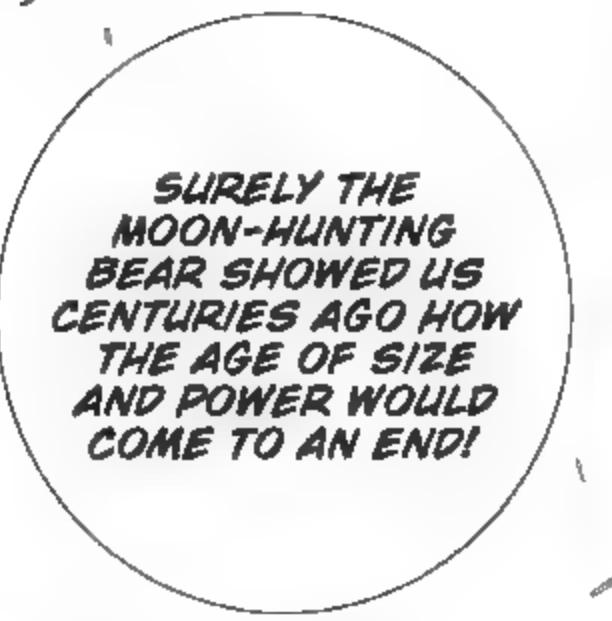
YORO (STAGGERED)

WITH ADVANCES IN MINING TECHNOLOGY, IT WOULD NOT BE ODD IF A MINE, ONCE THOUGHT DEPLETED, WAS REOPENED.

PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS.

EVEN IF WE CANNOT DEVELOP NEW MINES, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN EXCAVATING AGAIN IN MINES ALREADY CLOSED.

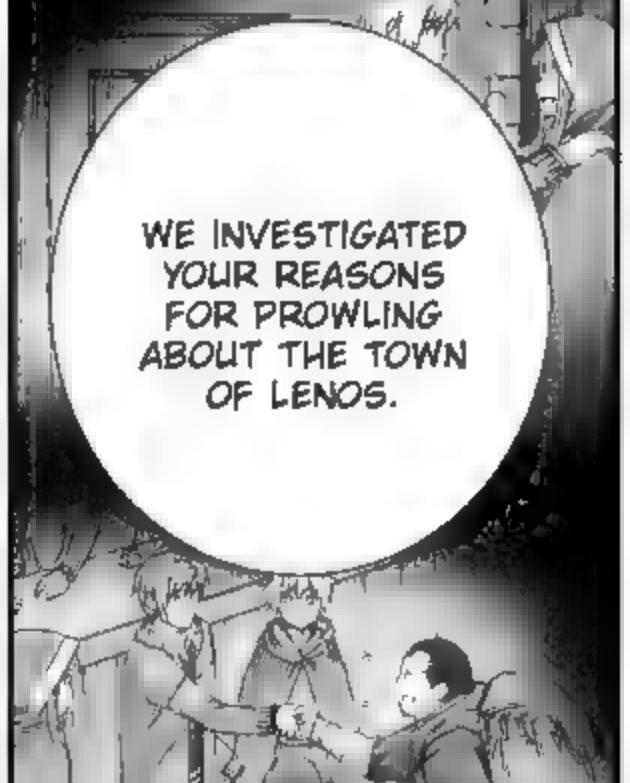
THE MAJORITY OF LORDS WOULD SELL US ABANDONED MINES WITHOUT OBJECTION.



SURELY THE
MOON-HUNTING
BEAR SHOWED US
CENTURIES AGO HOW
THE AGE OF SIZE
AND POWER WOULD
COME TO AN END!



NO DOUBT
YOU CHASED
AFTER THE BOOK
BECAUSE YOU
DID NOT WANT
THE NORTHLANDS
TO COME TO
RUIN.



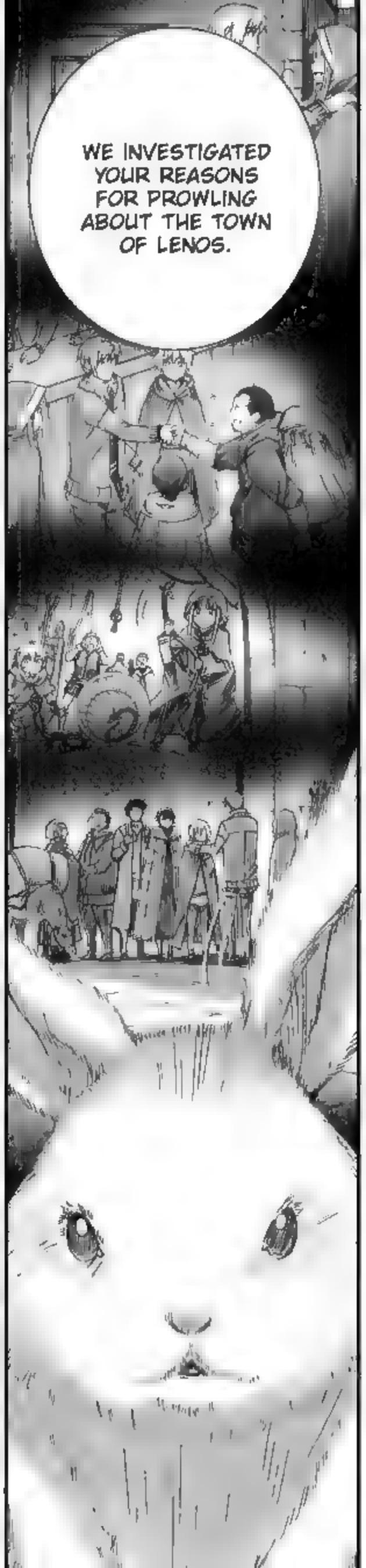
WE INVESTIGATED
YOUR REASONS
FOR PROWLING
ABOUT THE TOWN
OF LENOS.



WE
ARE ABLE
TO RESOLVE
MANY THINGS
WITH MONEY. WE
BELIEVE THAT
SHOULD BE SO
FROM NOW ON
AS WELL.



WE MUST
END THE AGE
OF BARED
BLADES AND
BLOODSHED.



I AM NOT.

ARE YOU
THE ONLY
ONE CALLING
FOR THIS?

...OUR
COMPANY
OWNER,
SHARES
THE SAME
THOUGHTS.

HILBERT VON
DEBAU...

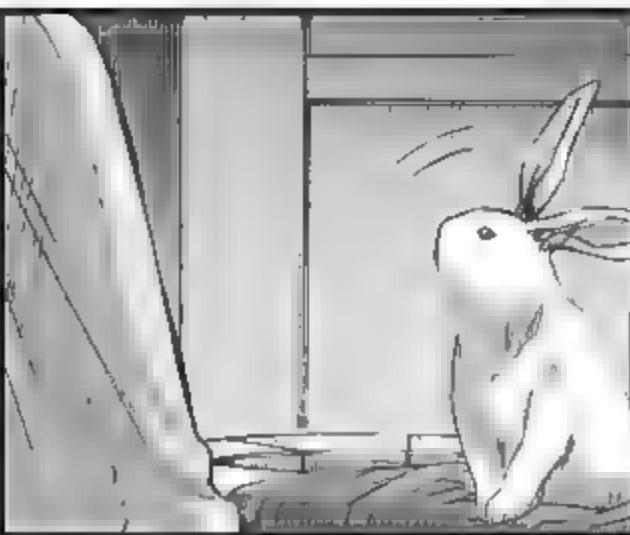
...THE DEBAU
COMPANY
WILL DEVOLVE
INTO A MERE
INVADING
FORCE.

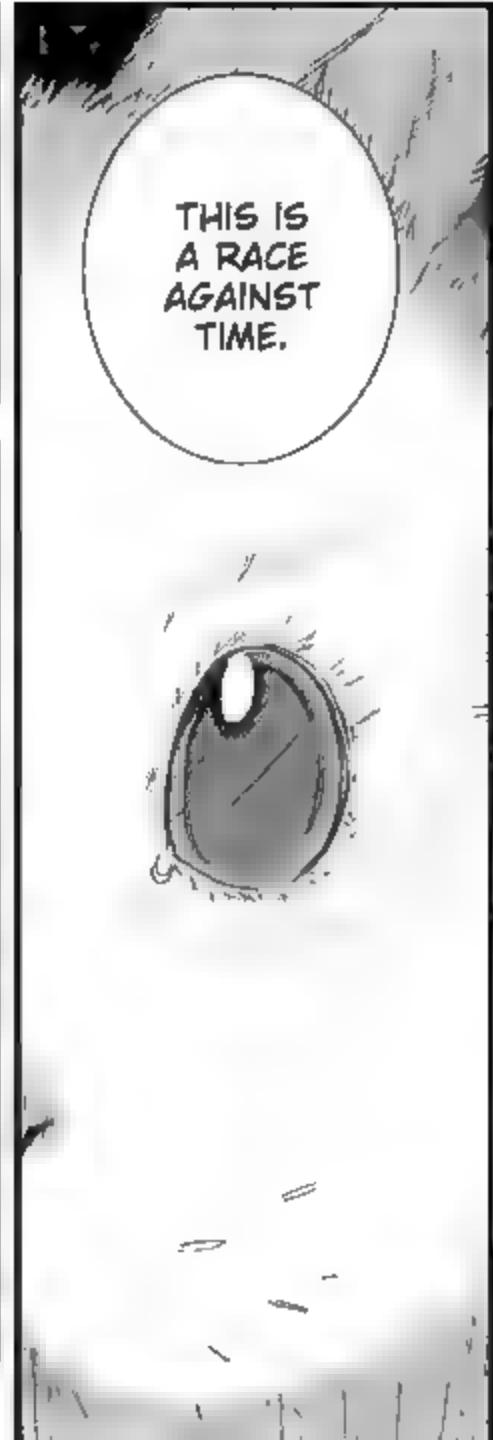
IF WE DO NOT
BREAK THE
REBELS HERE
AND NOW...

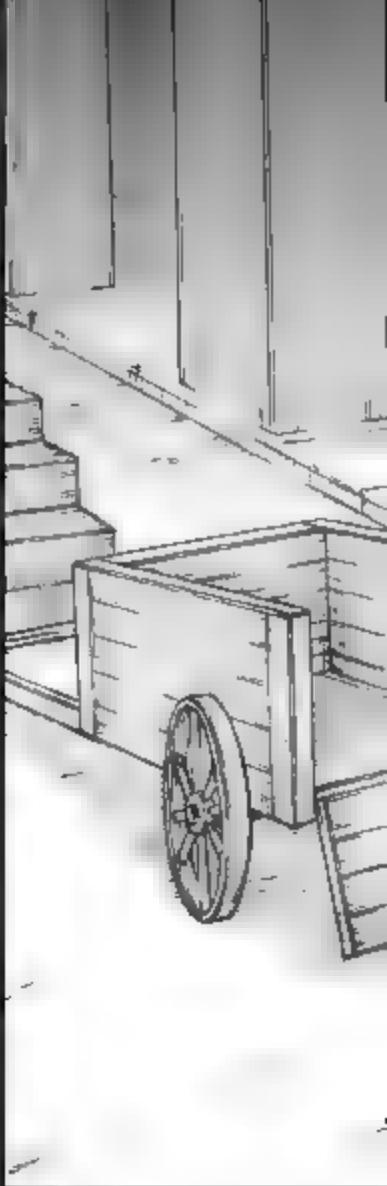
I BEG
YOU.

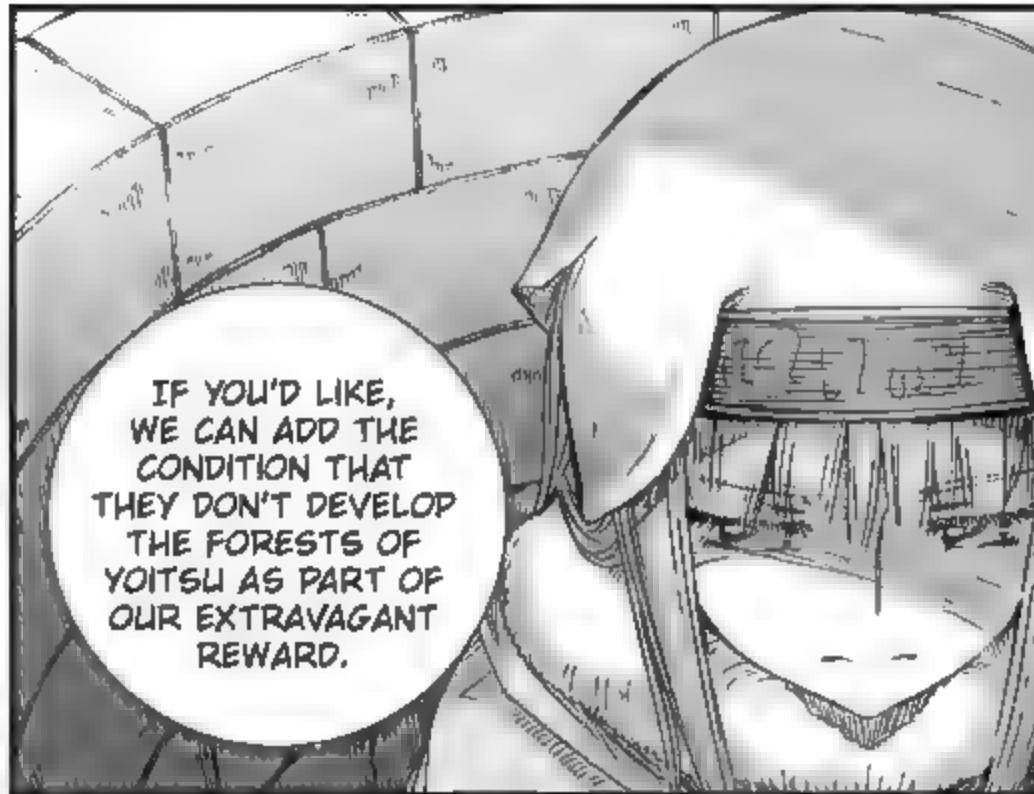
THE
DREAMS OF
OUR OWNER
WILL RETURN
TO ASHES...





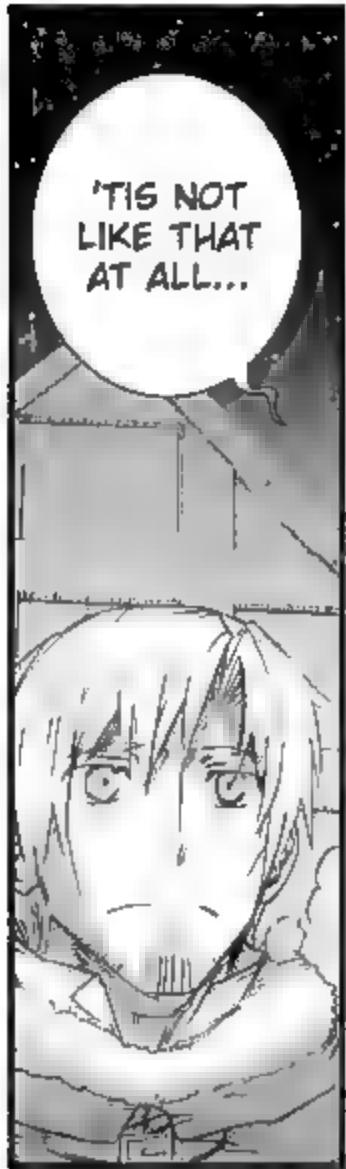












.....LET'S PUT
THE DETAILS
IN A CONTRACT
WITH HILDE—





.....IT
WILL BE...
FINE...?

OH NO...
I.....

I WILL
LIVE...
A LONG
TIME...

SNIFF



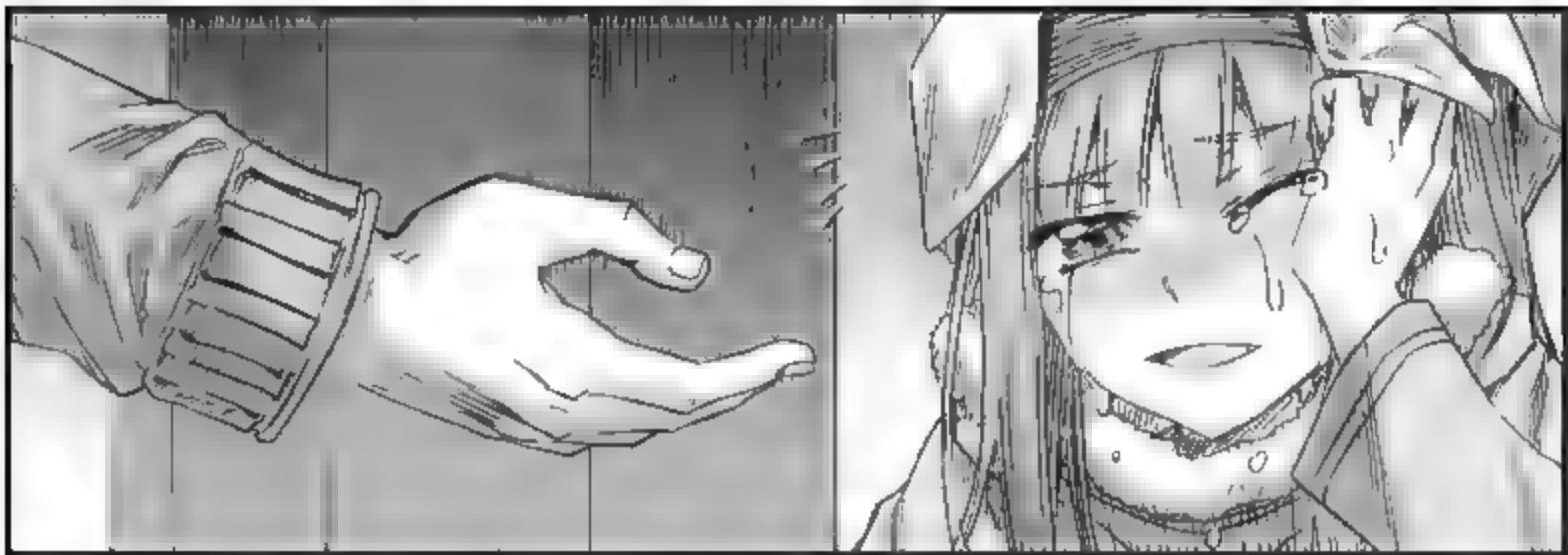


















LUWARD SEEMED TO BE RATHER AMUSED BY HOW THE DEBALI COMPANY HAD BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THE NOBLES' SCHEMES AND WERE NOW STUMBLING.

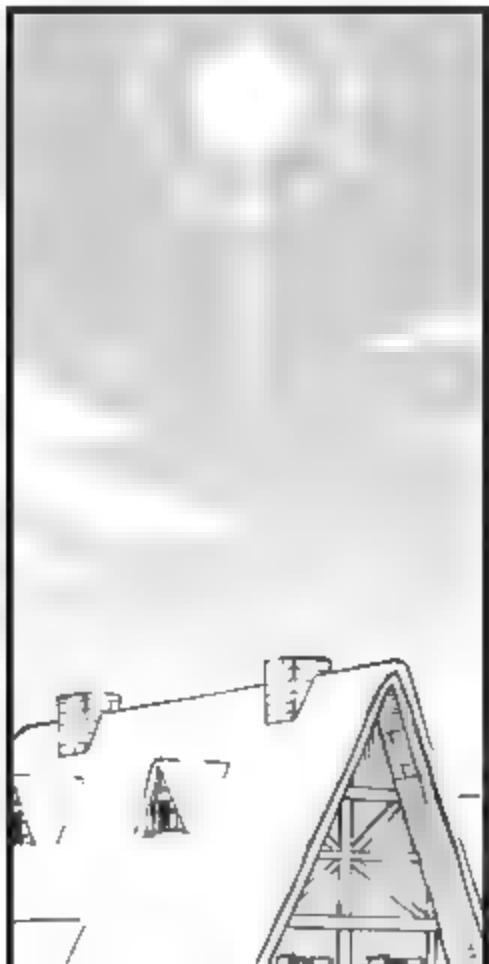
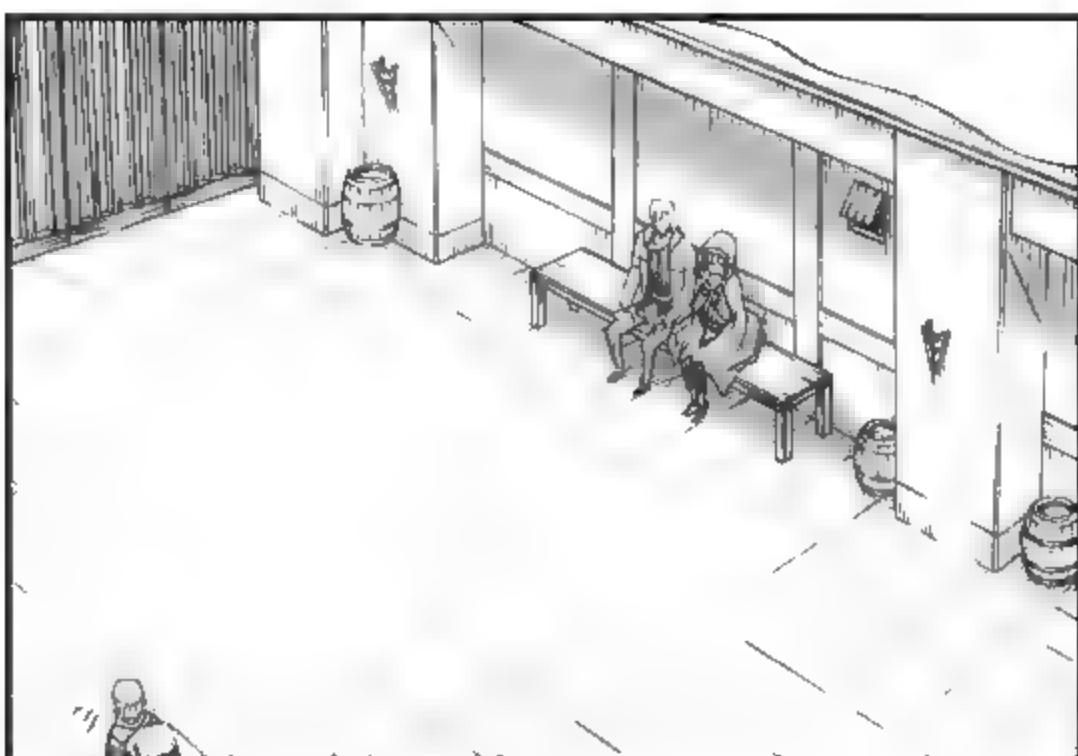


I WAITED UNTIL THE MORNING, WHEN THE CAPTAIN OF THE MYURI MERCENARY COMPANY, LUWARD, AND THE STRATEGIST, MOIZI, HAD SOBERED UP, AND TOLD THEM EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT BEFORE.



BUT HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT IF HILDE FAILED TO PERSUADE THE RADICAL FACTION, THE BLOOD OF THE MYURI MERCENARY COMPANY WOULD BE SPILT FIRST AS A WARNING, DUE TO THEIR TIES TO HOLO AND MYSELF.









BUT YOU
HAVE PAID
MONEY FOR
IT, YES?



NOTHING
GOOD COMES
FROM LEAVING
SOMETHING
PRECIOUS IN A
DANGEROUS
PLACE, AFTER
ALL.



...AND YOU
ARE RATHER
GREEDY WHEN
IT COMES TO
MONEY...



IT IS
THE STORE
OF YOUR
DREAMS.....



ALTHOUGH
...



AS FAR AS
MONEY GOES,
I ONLY PAID
THE DEPOSIT.

HMM...



HMM?

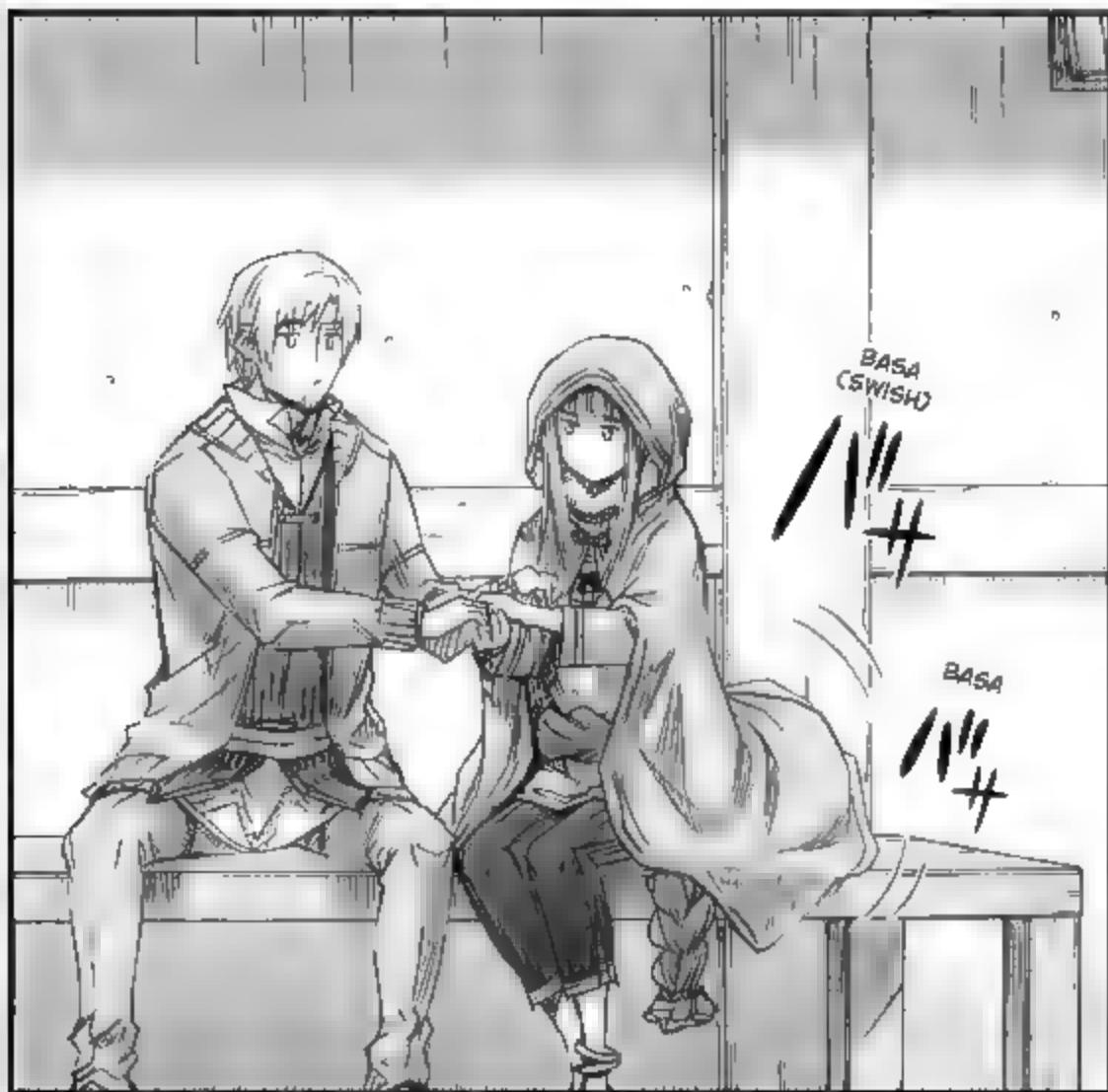
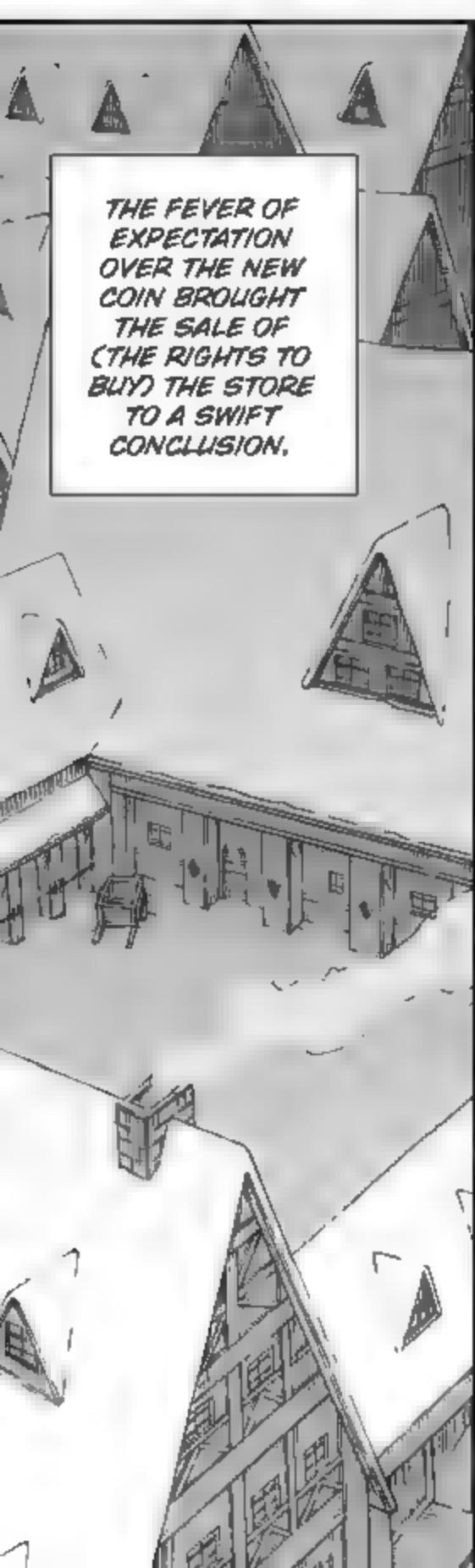


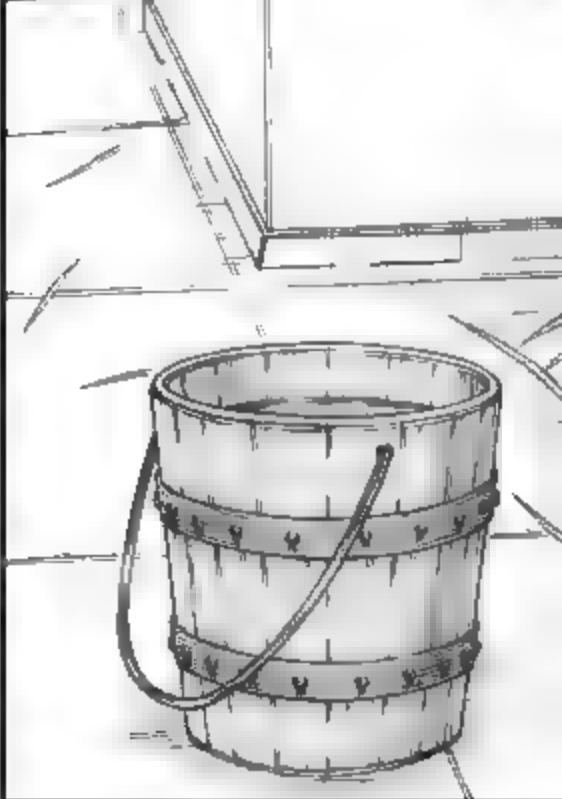
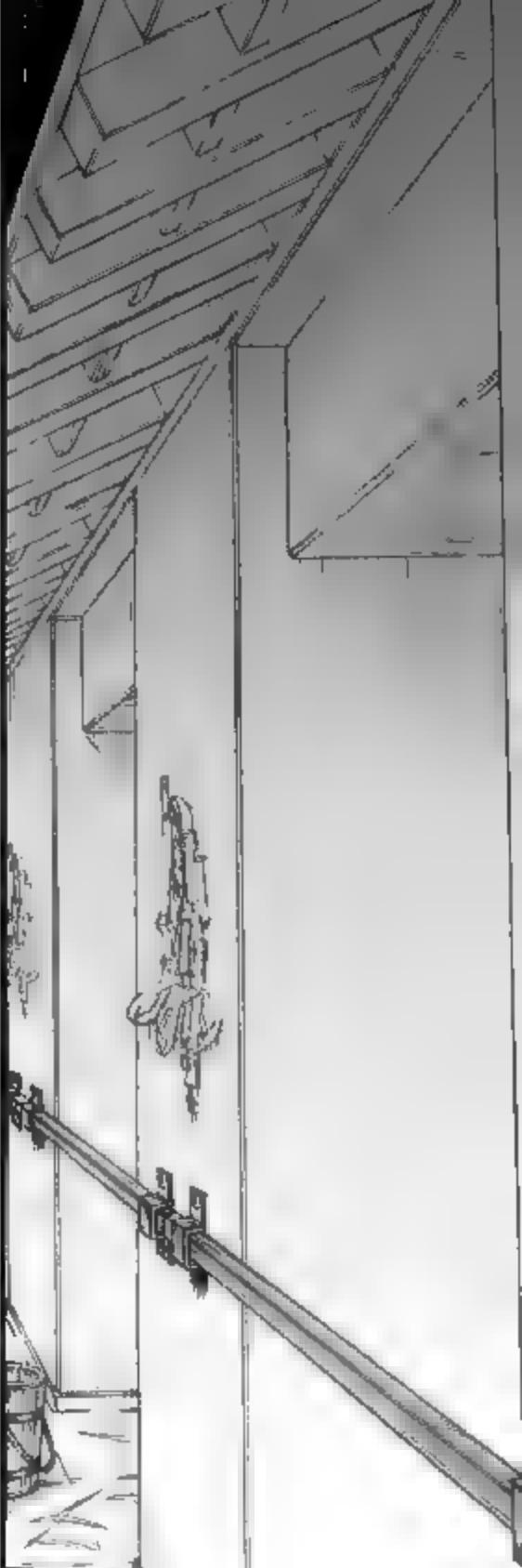
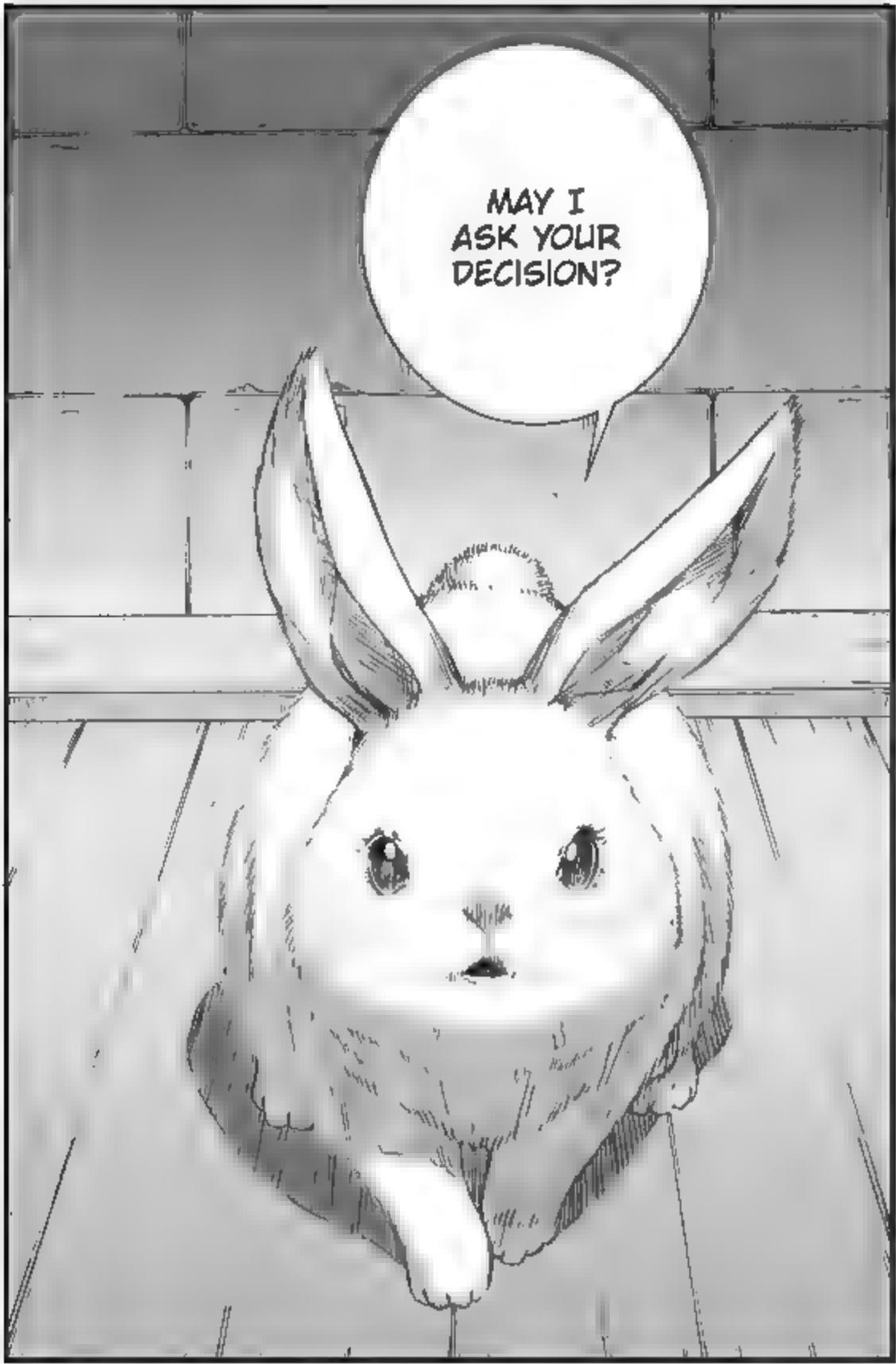
X
KACHI
(CLACK)

X

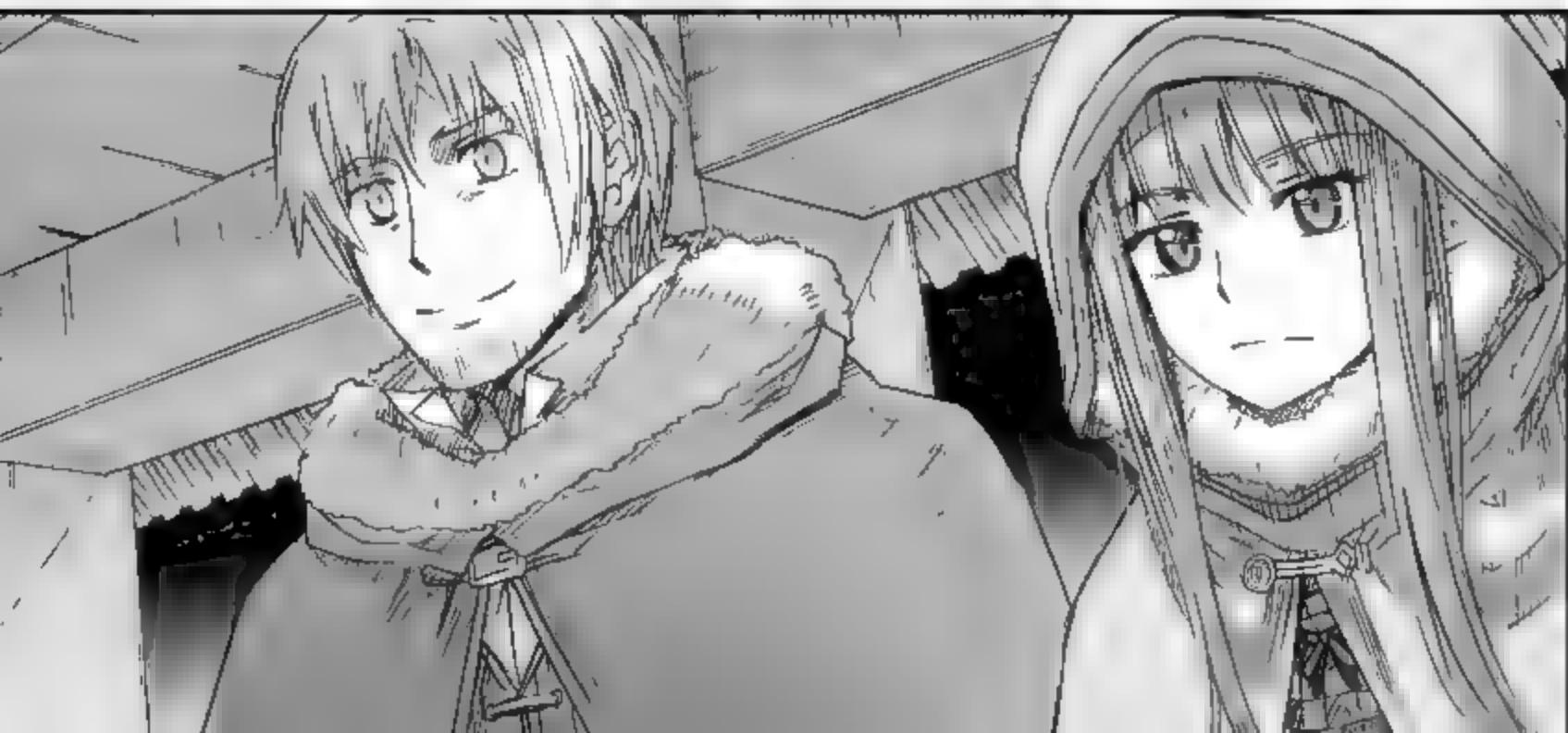








WE
WILL HAND
OVER THE
FORBIDDEN
BOOK.



I CAN PAY
THREE HUNDRED
GOLD LUMIONE.
I LEFT THEM
IN A HIDEAWAY
OF MINE IN
TOWN.

IN ORDER
TO RETRIEVE THE
FORBIDDEN BOOK,
WE FIRST HAVE TO
CONVINCE LE ROI,
BUT WITH HILDE'S
IDEA OF HANDING
OVER THREE HUNDRED
GOLD LUMIONE,
THERE SHOULDN'T
BE ANY PROBLEM.

THANK
YOU...VERY
MUCH.

I WILL ASK
MISS HOLO
TO DO THE
BARGAINING.

IT WOULD
TAKE A WEEK ON
A FAST HORSE
TO GET FROM
LESKO TO
KIESCHEN AND
THE BOOK.

TAKING INTO
CONSIDERATION
THE URGENCY OF
THE SITUATION AND
NEGOTIATING WITH
LE ROI, THERE WAS
LITTLE CHOICE BUT
FOR HOLO TO GO IN
HER OTHER FORM.



'TIS
GOOD TO
RUN IN MY
TRUE BODY
ONCE IN A
WHILE.



THREE TO
FOUR DAYS
THERE AND
BACK.

IF IT'S
A WEEK ON A
FAST HORSE,
THEN WERE I TO
RUN WITHOUT
SLEEP—A DAY
AND A HALF
ONE WAY.



HOW LONG
WOULD IT
TAKE YOU?



IT MUST
NOT BE A
NORMAL
BIRD, OF
COURSE.

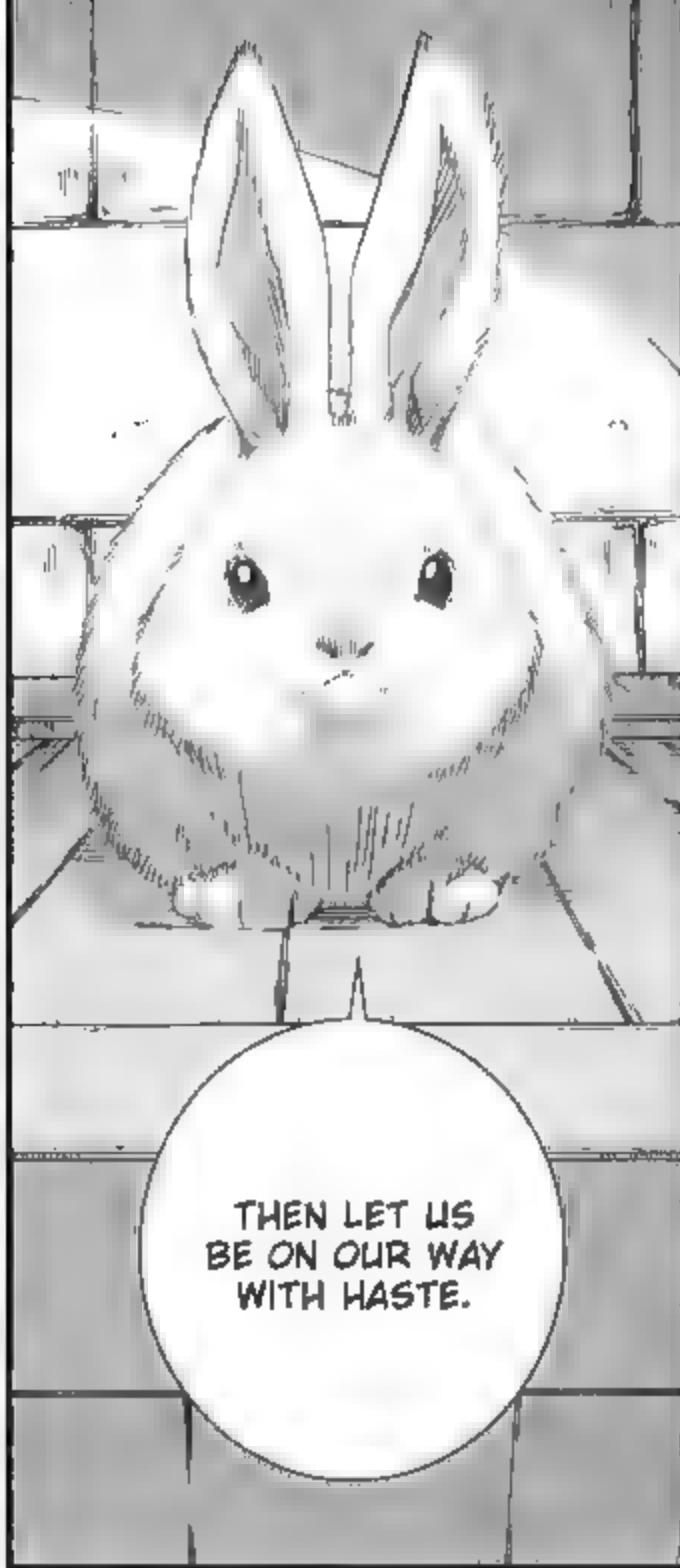
THAT
"BIRD"
MUST HAVE
CARRIED
COL'S
BAG...



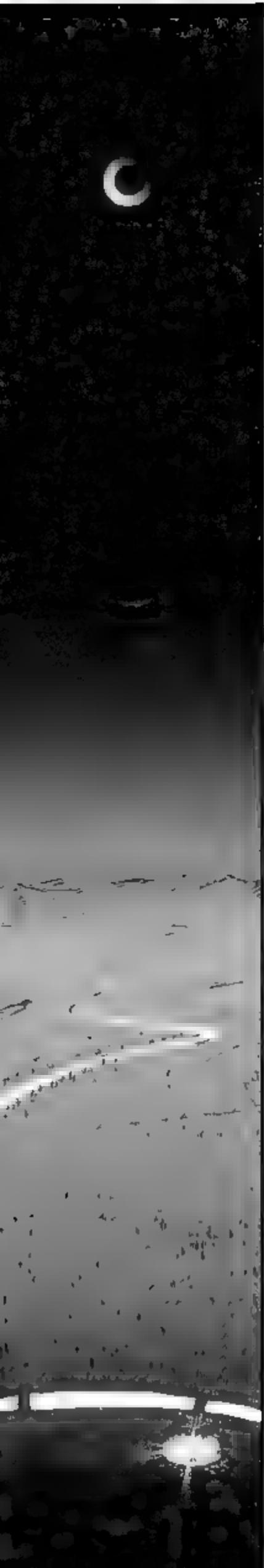
...AND THAT
MIGHT MAKE
EVEN HIS
WINGS WEEP.

I HAVE
A BIRD
COMPANION
...



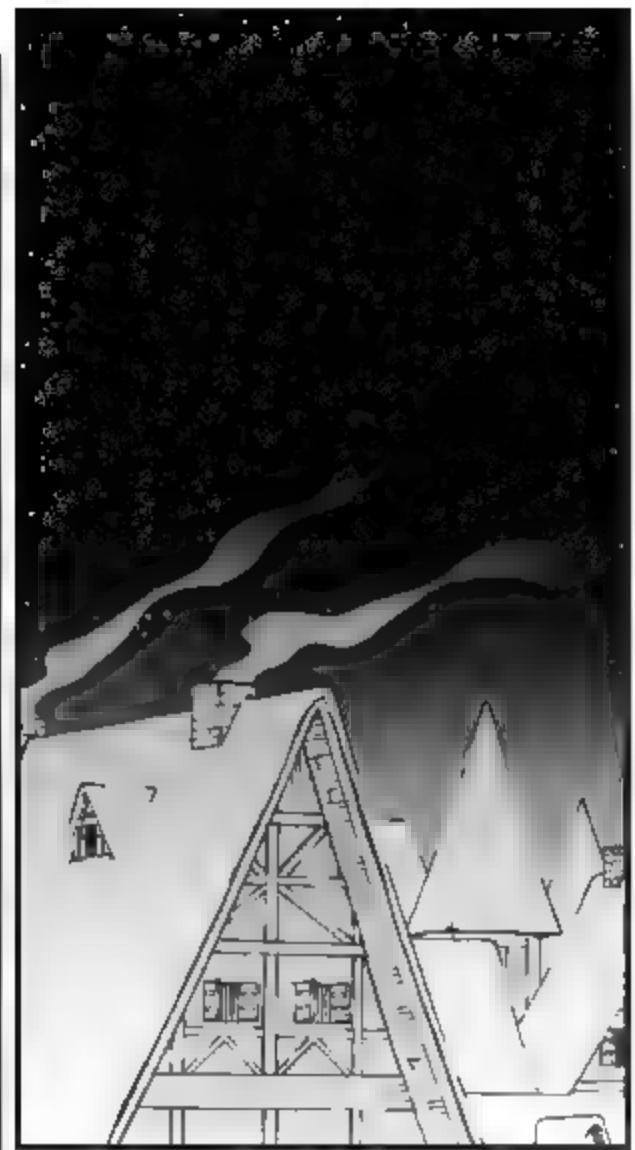


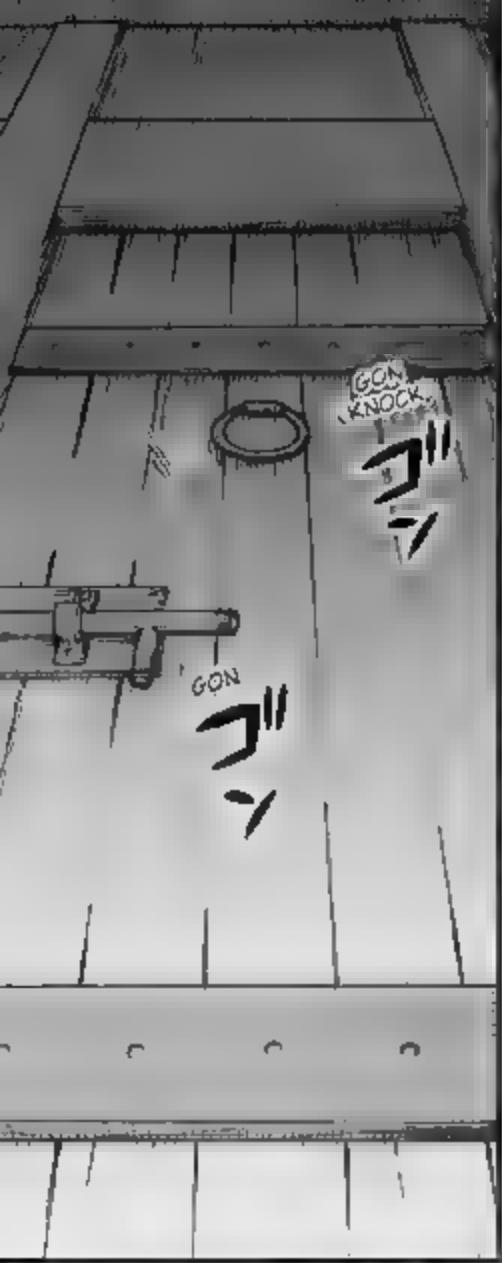














SPICE & WOLF

DEBAU COMPANY,
LESKO HEAD-
QUARTERS,
THE SILVER
HALL

OUR
COMPANY
AS
WELL!

THE
YANARKIN
TRANSPORT
COMPANY
REJECTS THIS.
WE MUST
PROCEED WITH
OUR DEALINGS
QUICKLY.

HEAR,
HEAR.

THE
VHANS
COMPANY
APPROVES.
WHAT
DATE?

IN
ACCORDANCE
WITH THIS
SITUATION, WE
SHALL REACH
OUR VERDICT
AT A LATER
DATE...

YOU ARE BEING
SHORTSIGHTED!
THIS CHANCE TO
CONQUER ALL OF
THE NORTHLANDS
IS PROFITS FOR
THE WHOLE!

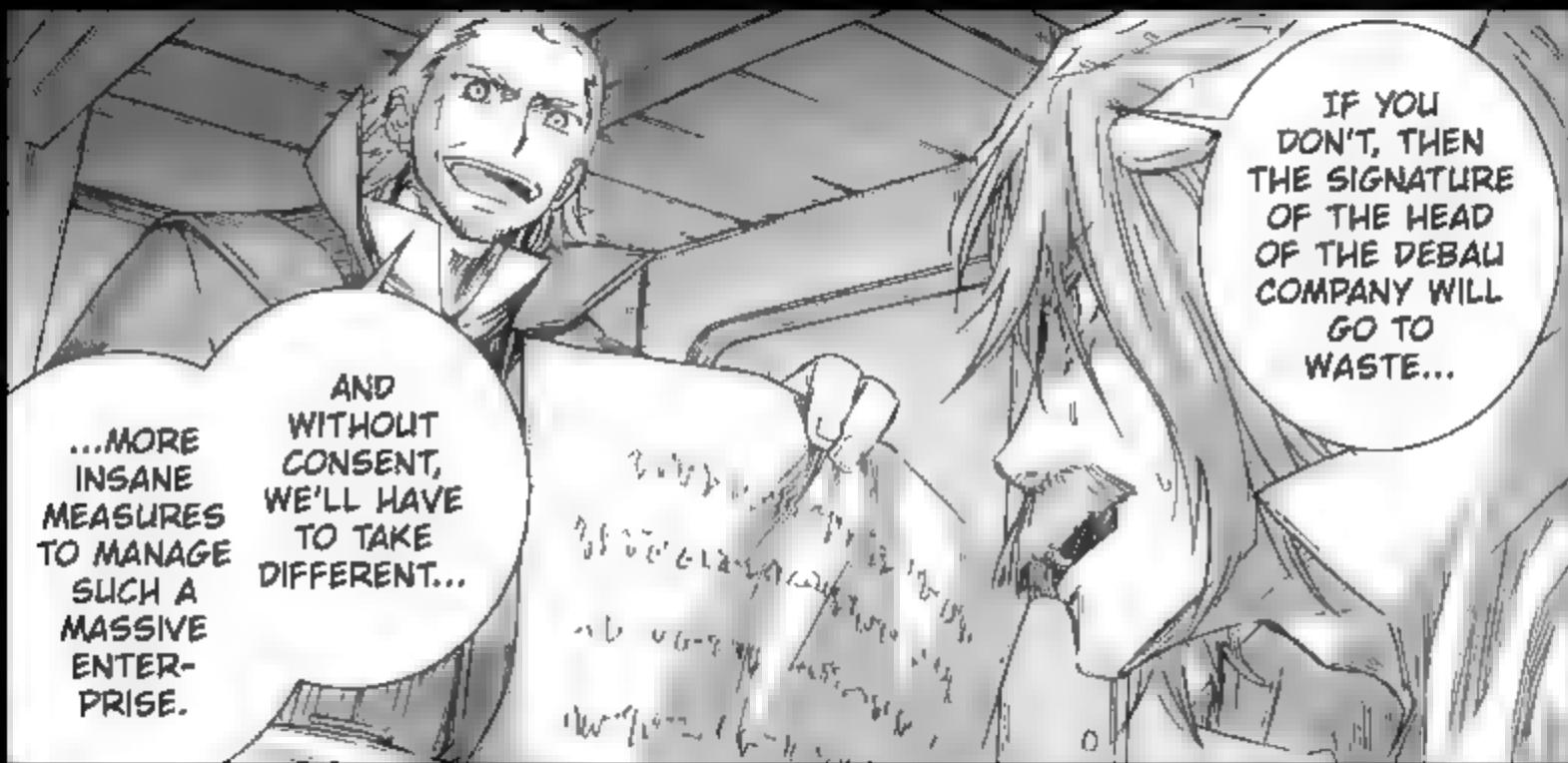
THEY SAY IT'LL
COME BACK
TO HAUNT US
IN A HUNDRED
YEARS IF WE
DON'T SEIZE THIS
CHANCE NOW...

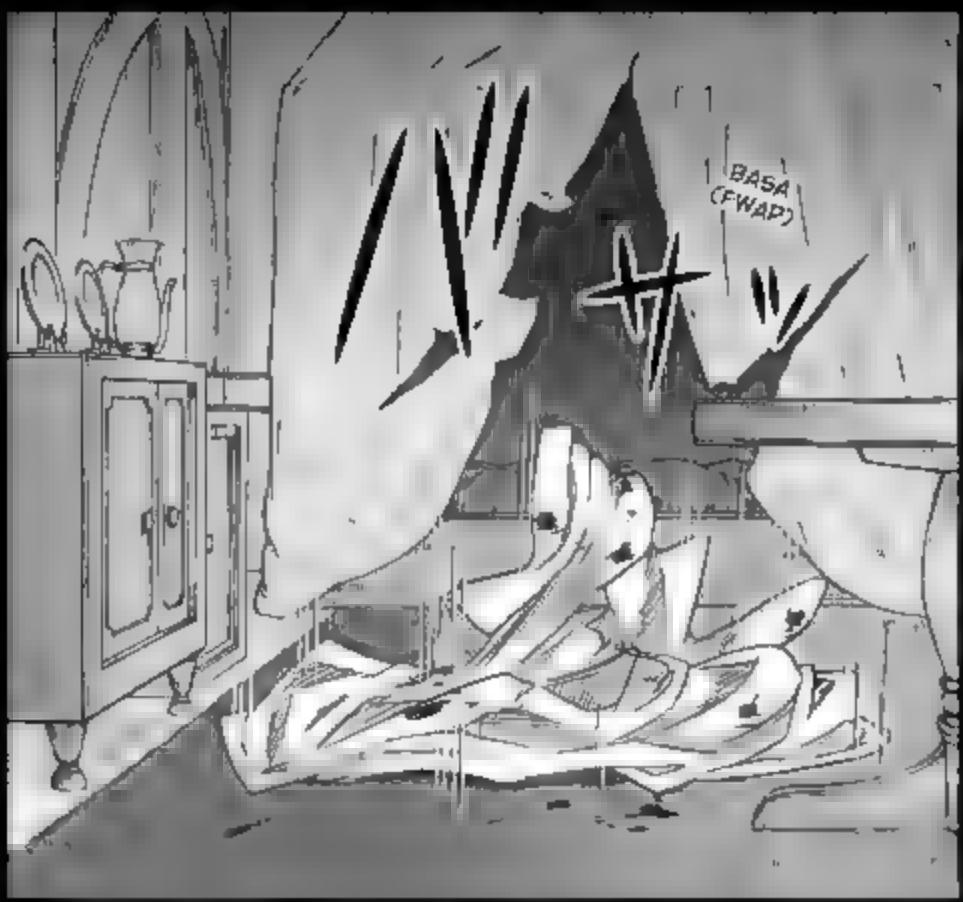
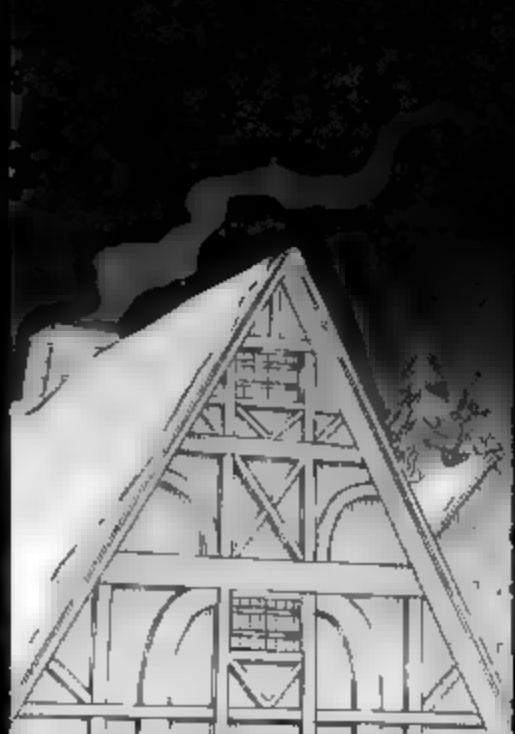
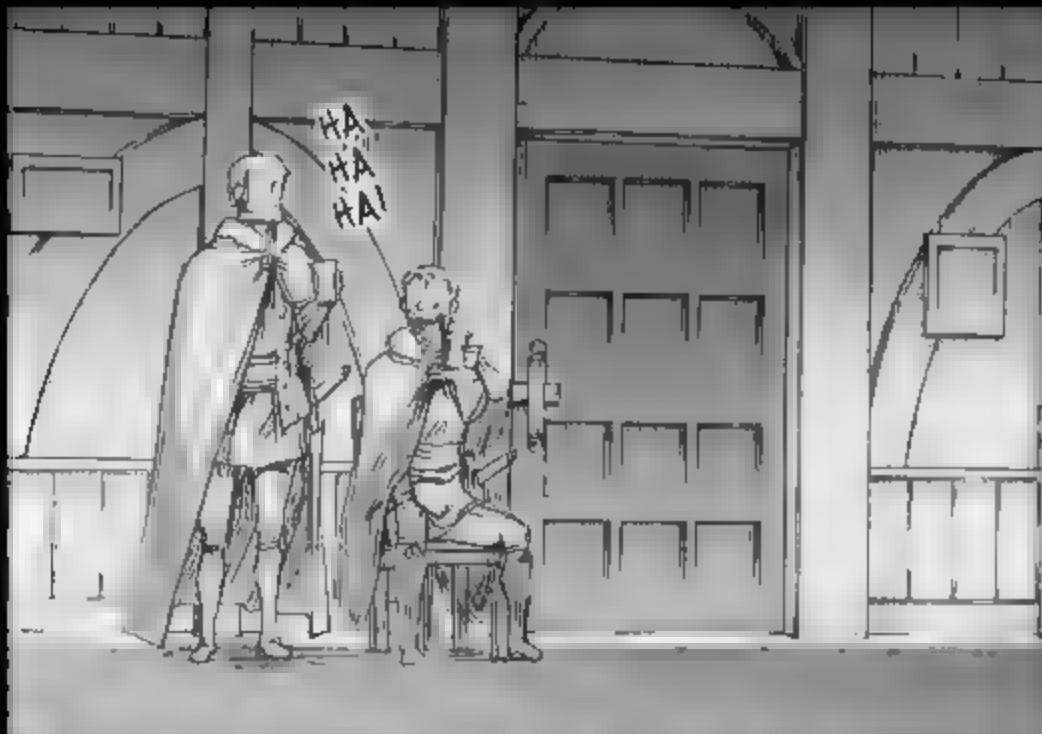
INDEED.
TRADE IS
SOMETHING
THAT BRINGS
IN PROFITS AS
A WHOLE.

IT IS TOO
OPTIMISTIC
TO CALL THE
"OPERATIONS"
THAT YOU
HAVE
PROPOSED,
TRADE.









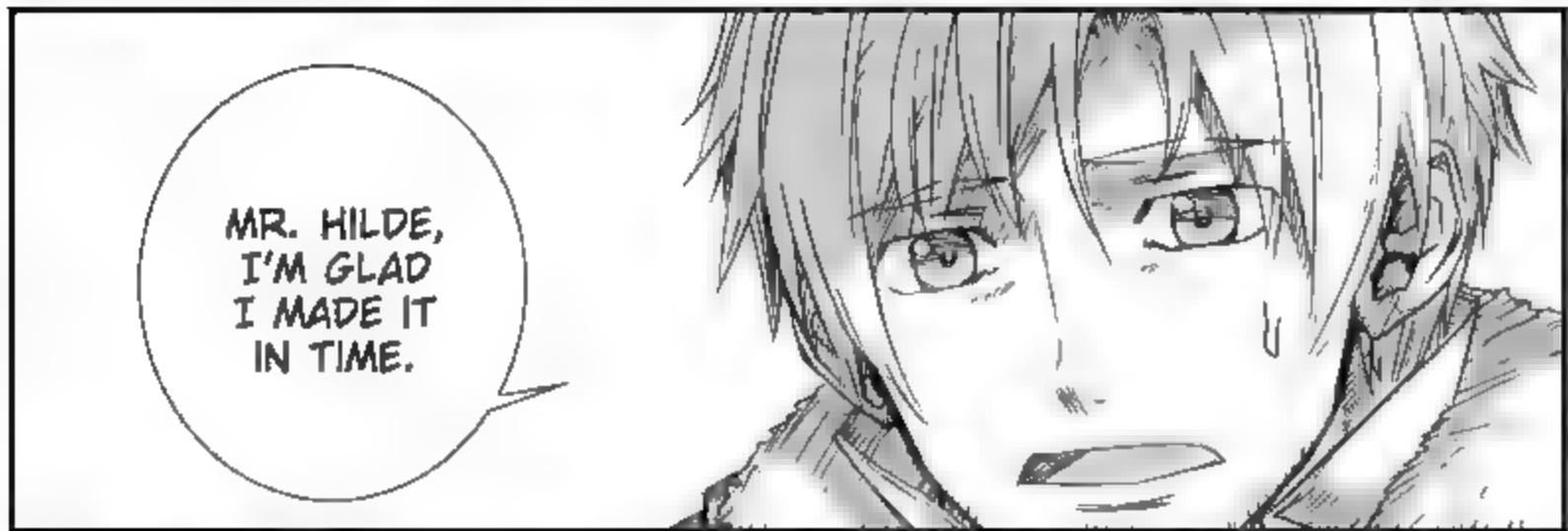
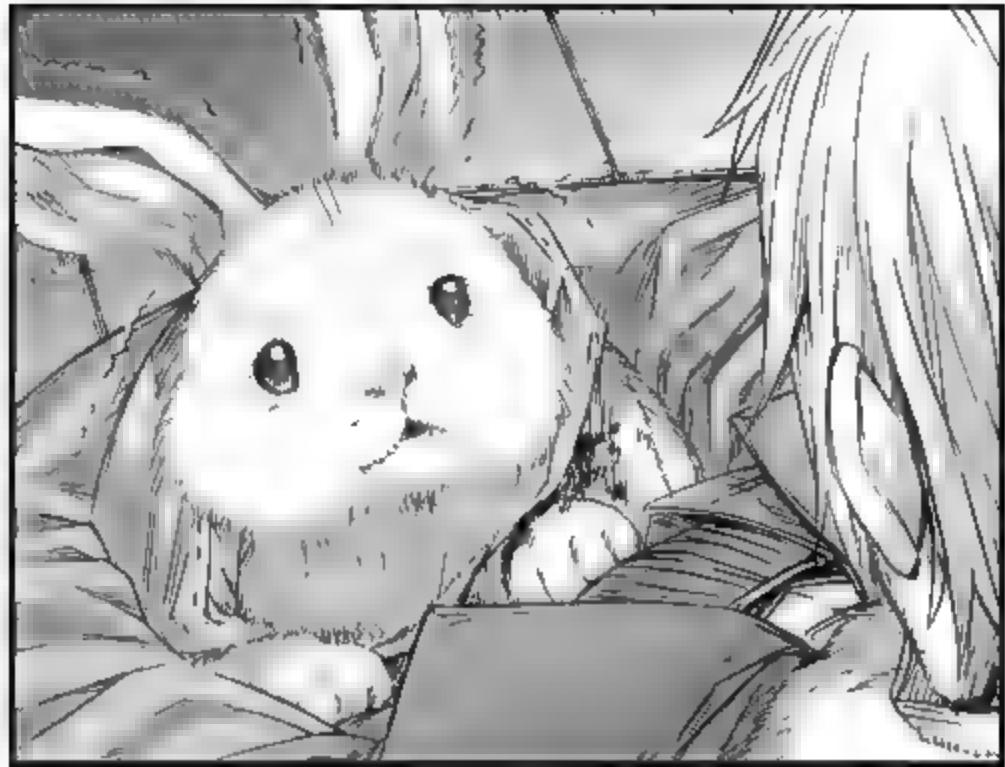


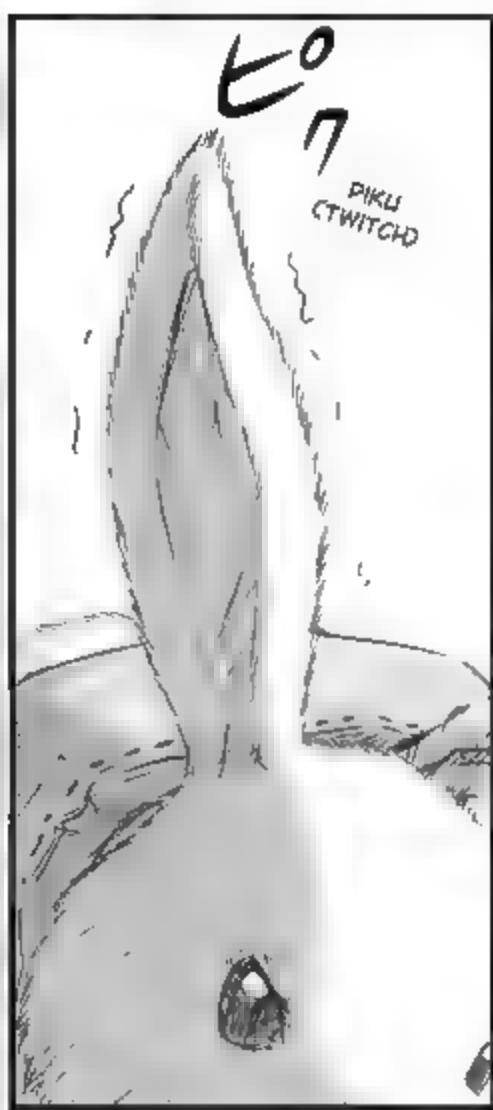


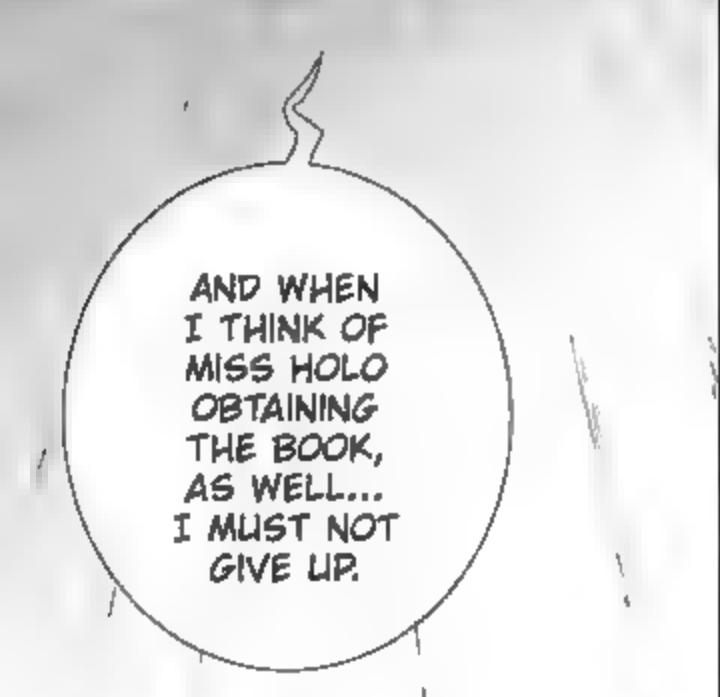
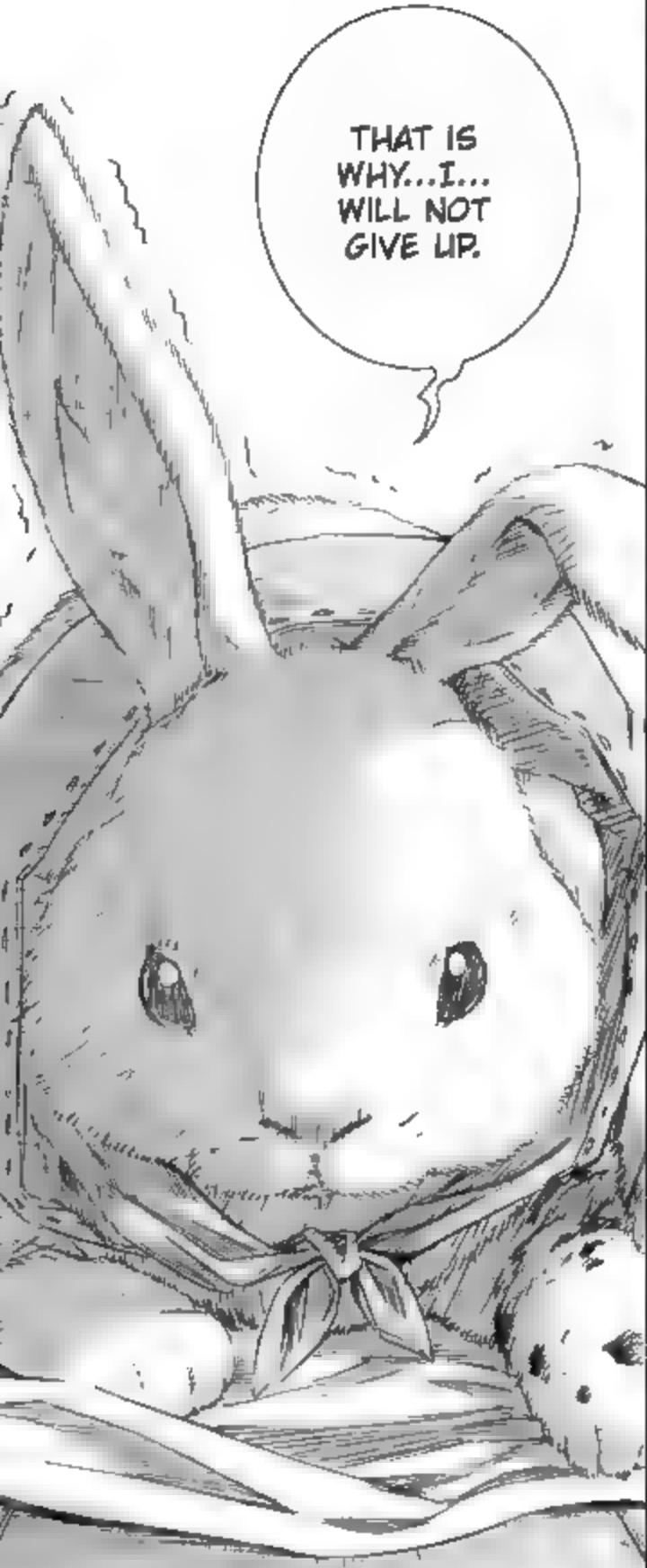




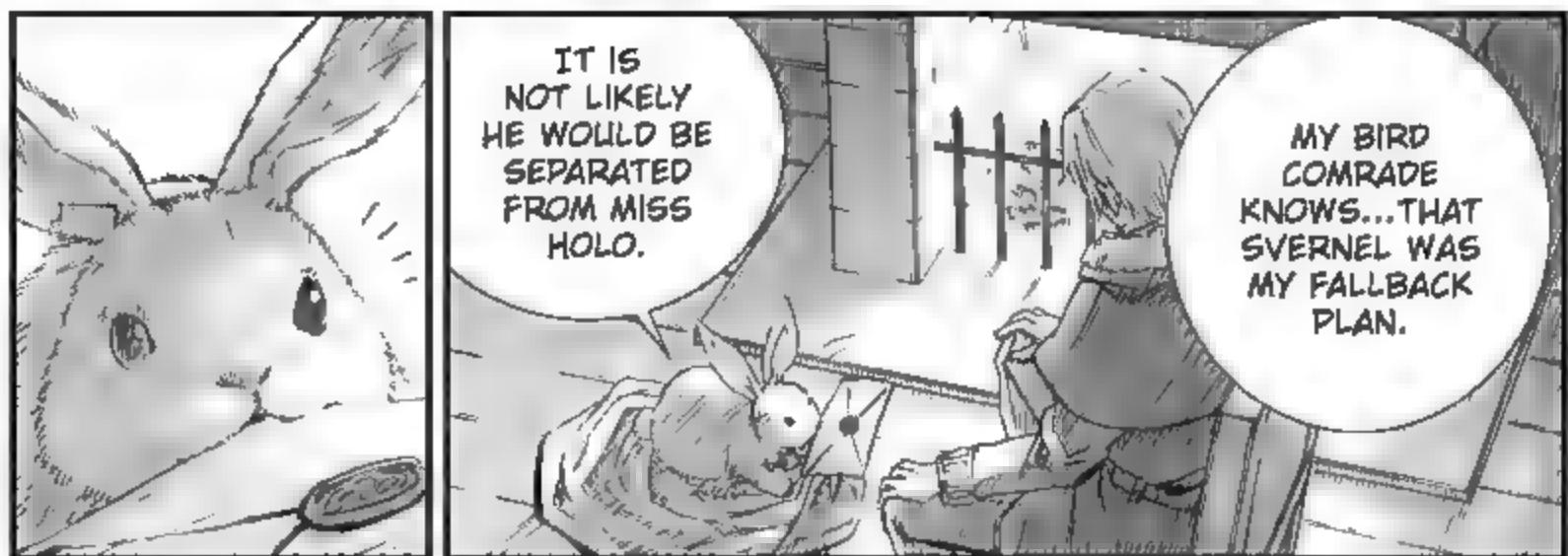


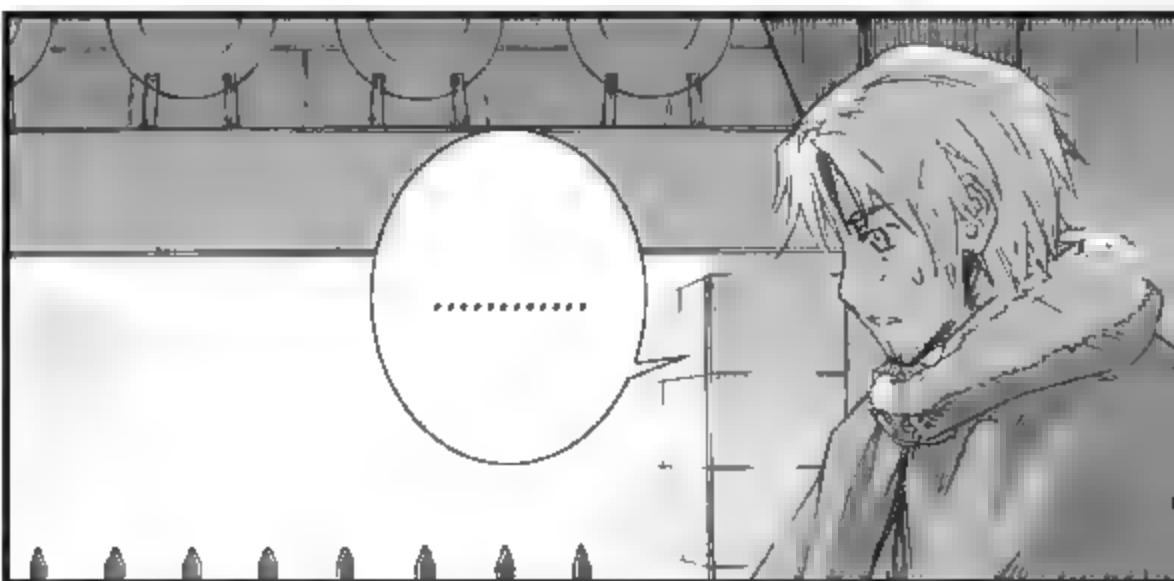


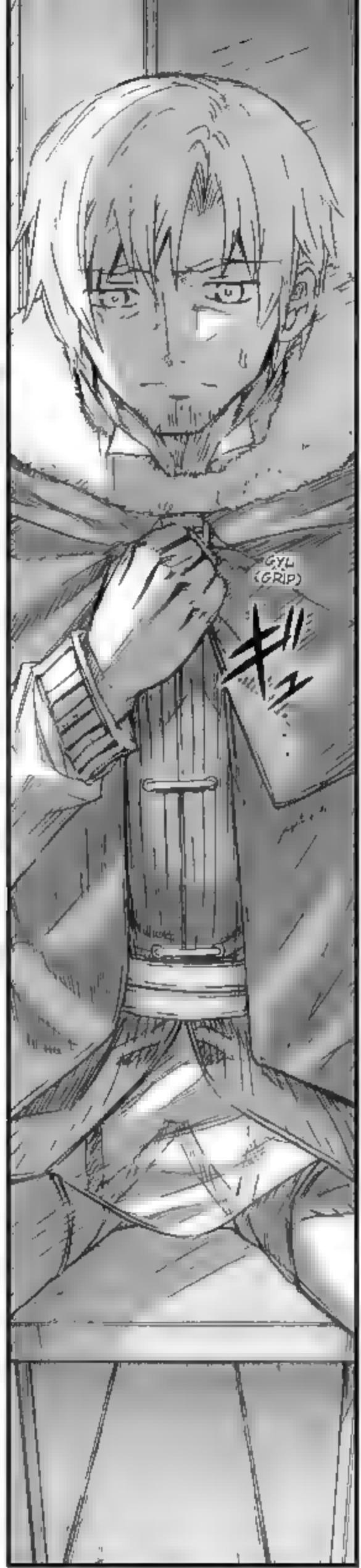


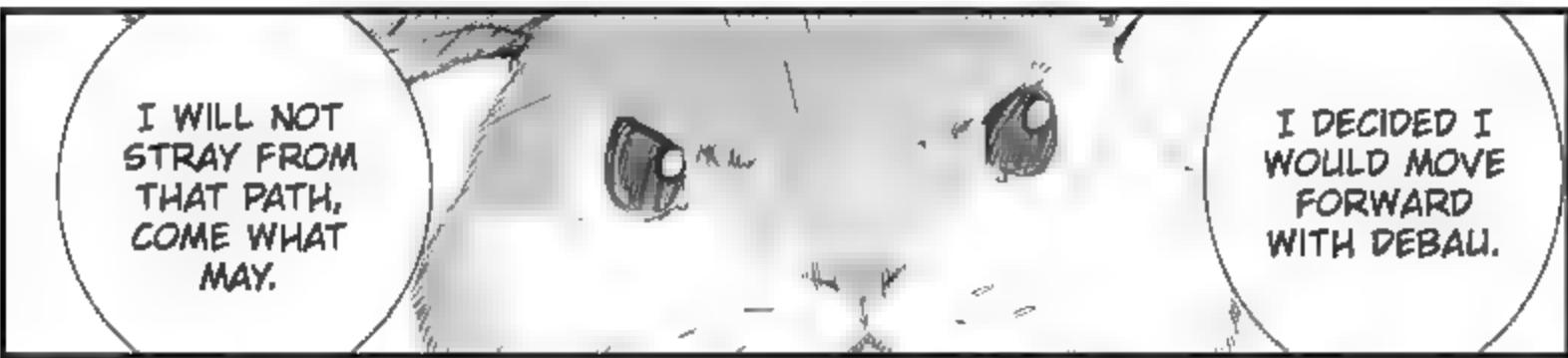














AND WITHOUT A
TRUSTWORTHY
COMPANION...



IT IS
THE SAME...AS
ACCOMPLISHING
NOTHING.



I KNOW
HOW DIFFICULT
IT IS...TO LIVE
SIMPLY FOR THE
SAKE OF LIVING
LONG.



...IT IS
THE SAME AS
BEING ALONE IN
THE WORLD.



THAT IS
WHY...



I BELIEVE THAT
YOU UNDERSTAND
THE MEANING OF
THESE WORDS,
MR. LAWRENCE.



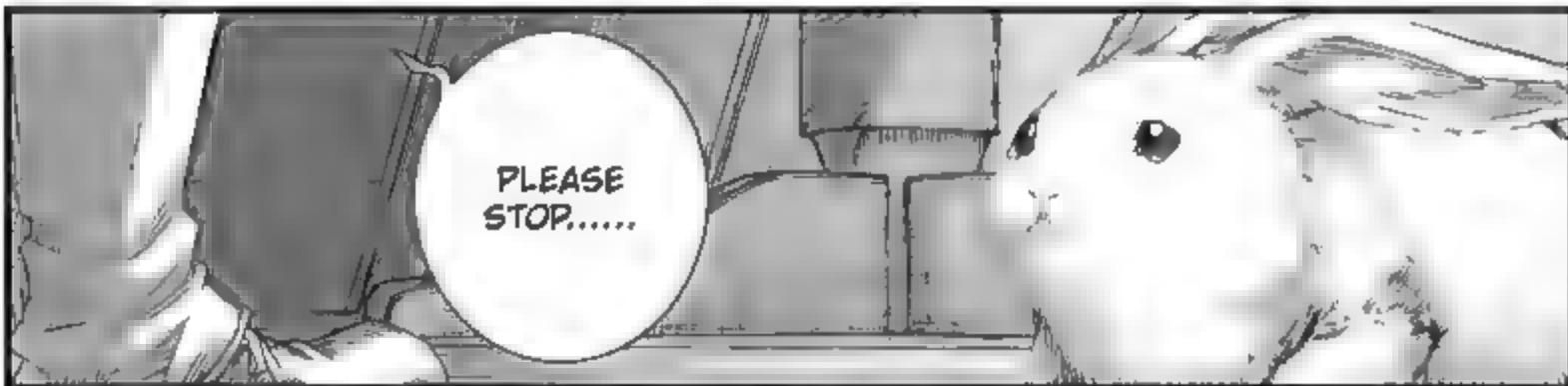
...YOU
AND MISS
HOLO, WHILE
SHE IS STILL
IN HUMAN
FORM—



MIKU
(TWITCH)

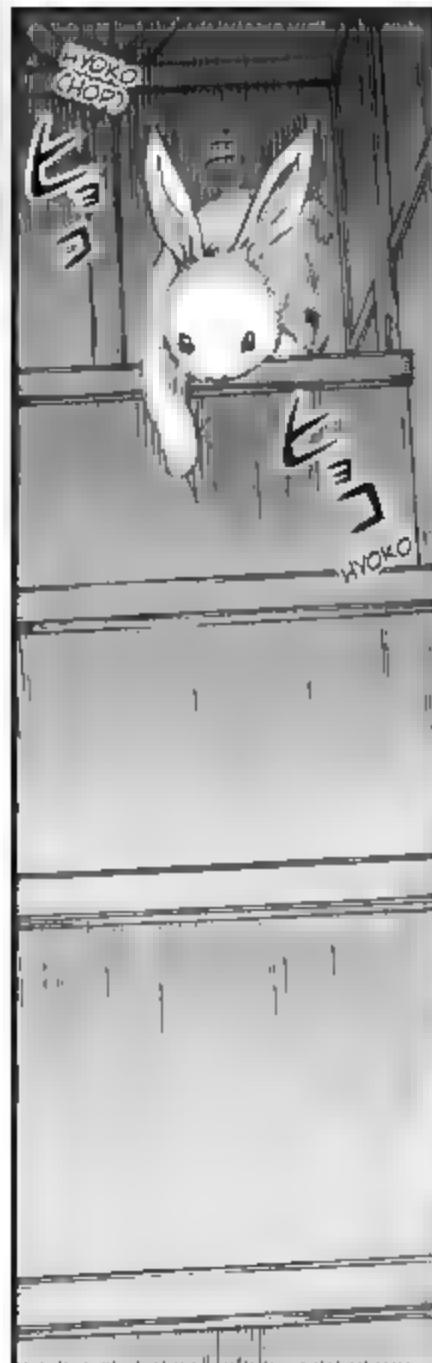


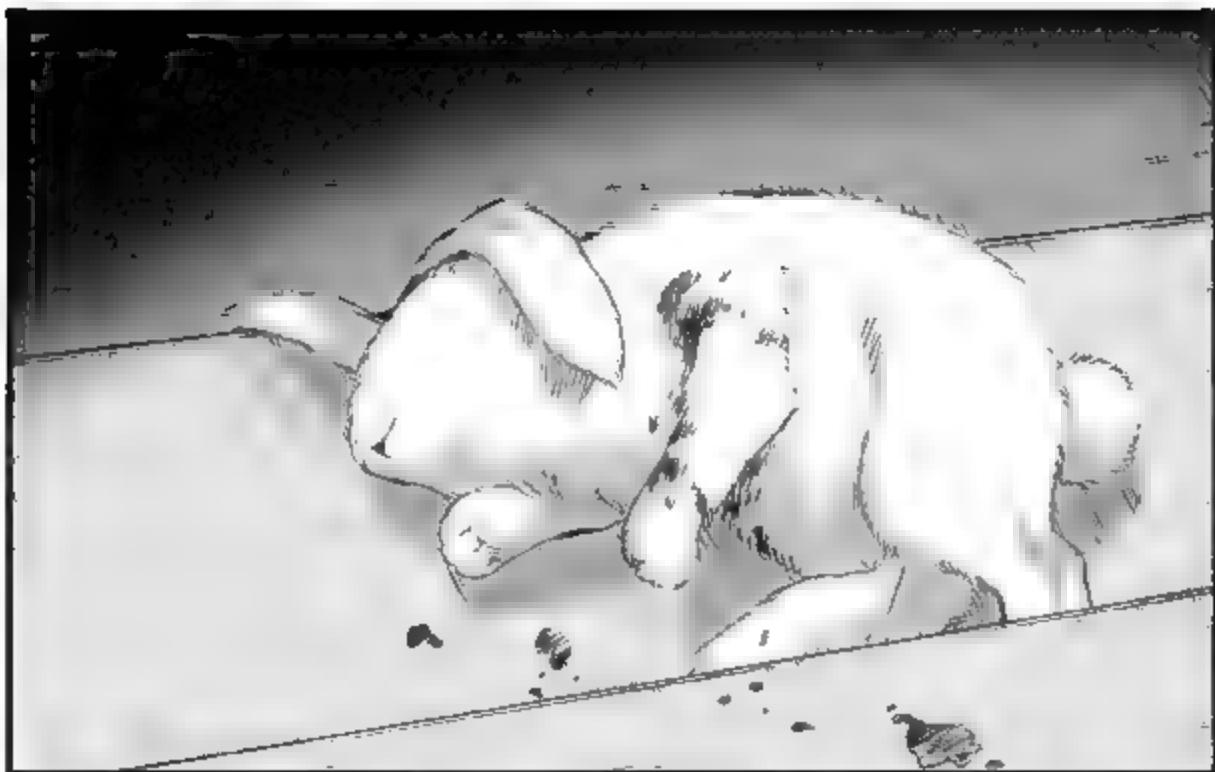
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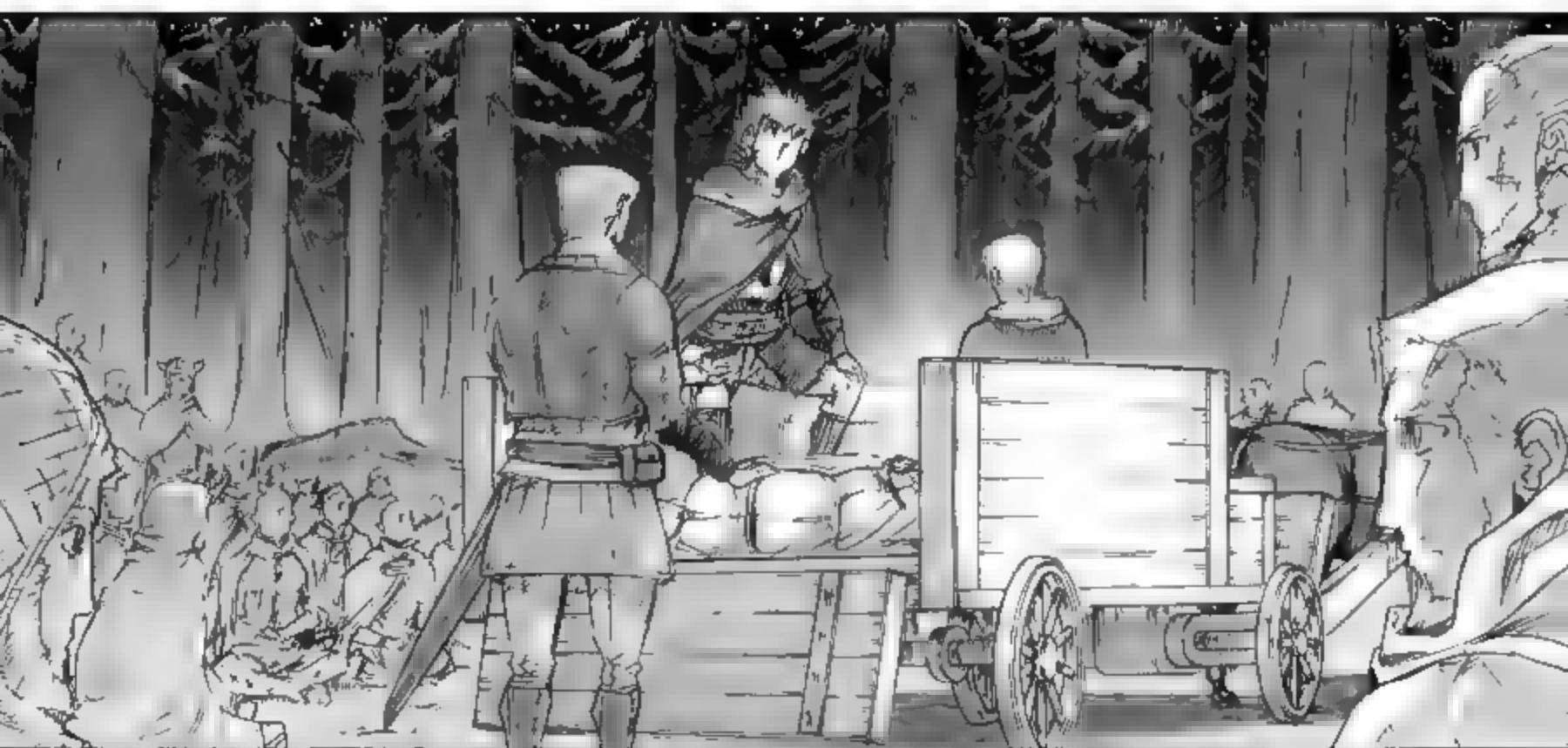
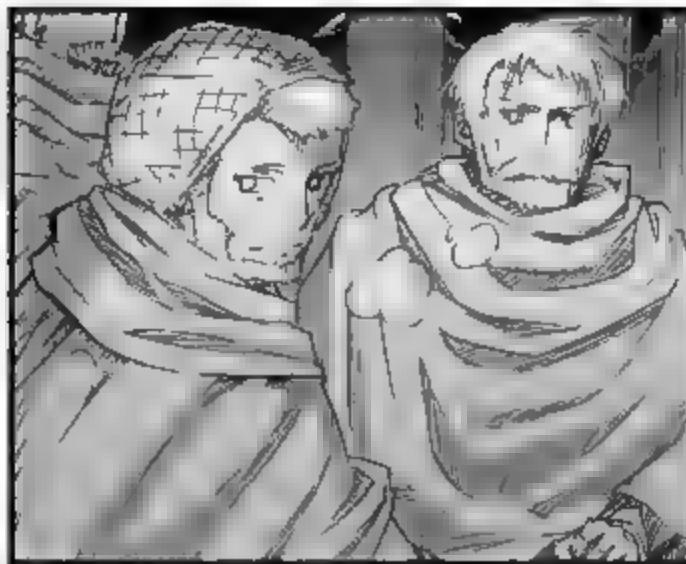


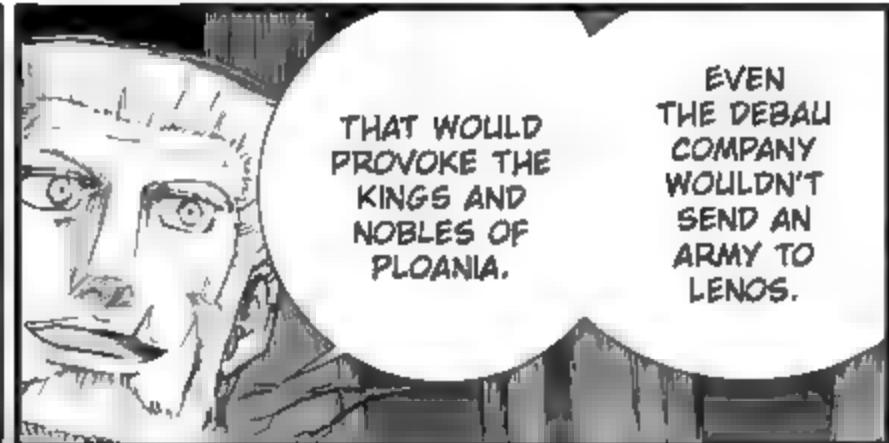
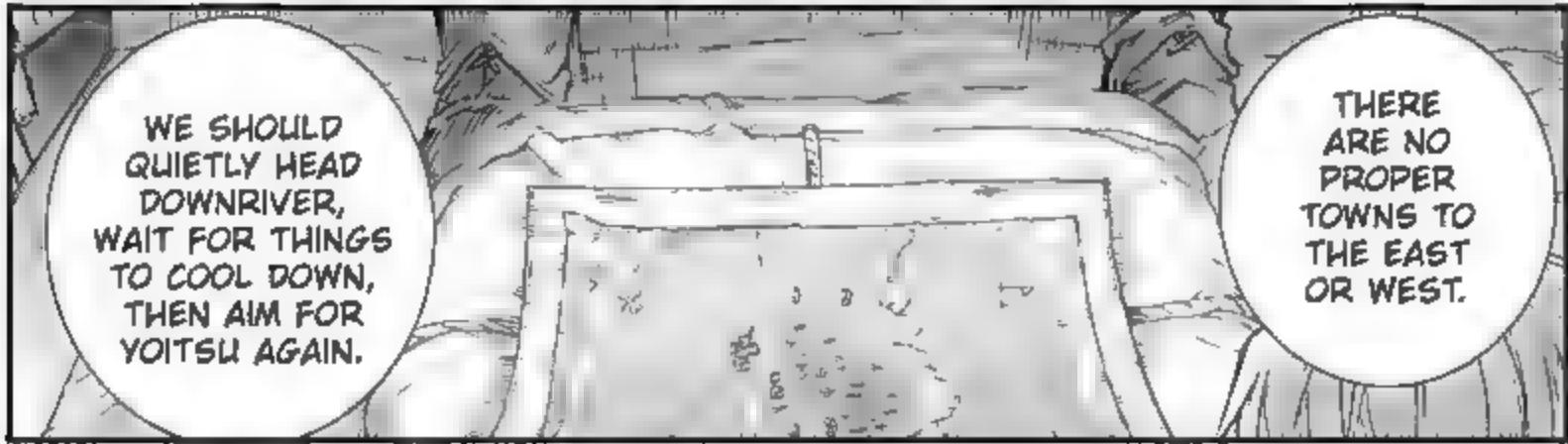


IT WAS
ALSO TRUE
THAT A LIFE
DEDICATED TO
OVERCOMING
HARDSHIPS
WAS NOT
MEANINGFUL.





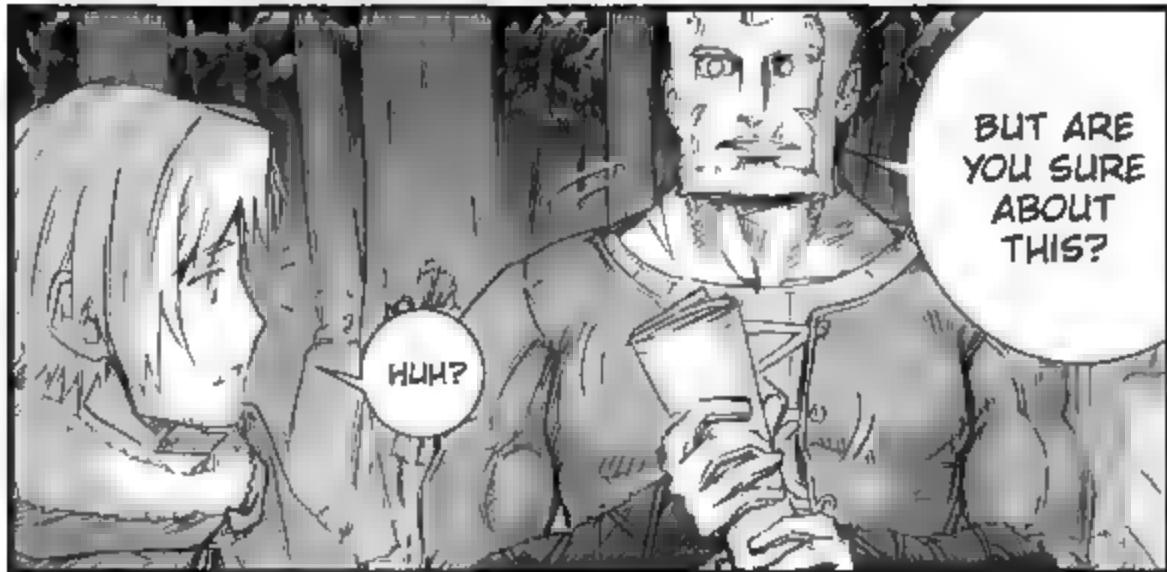


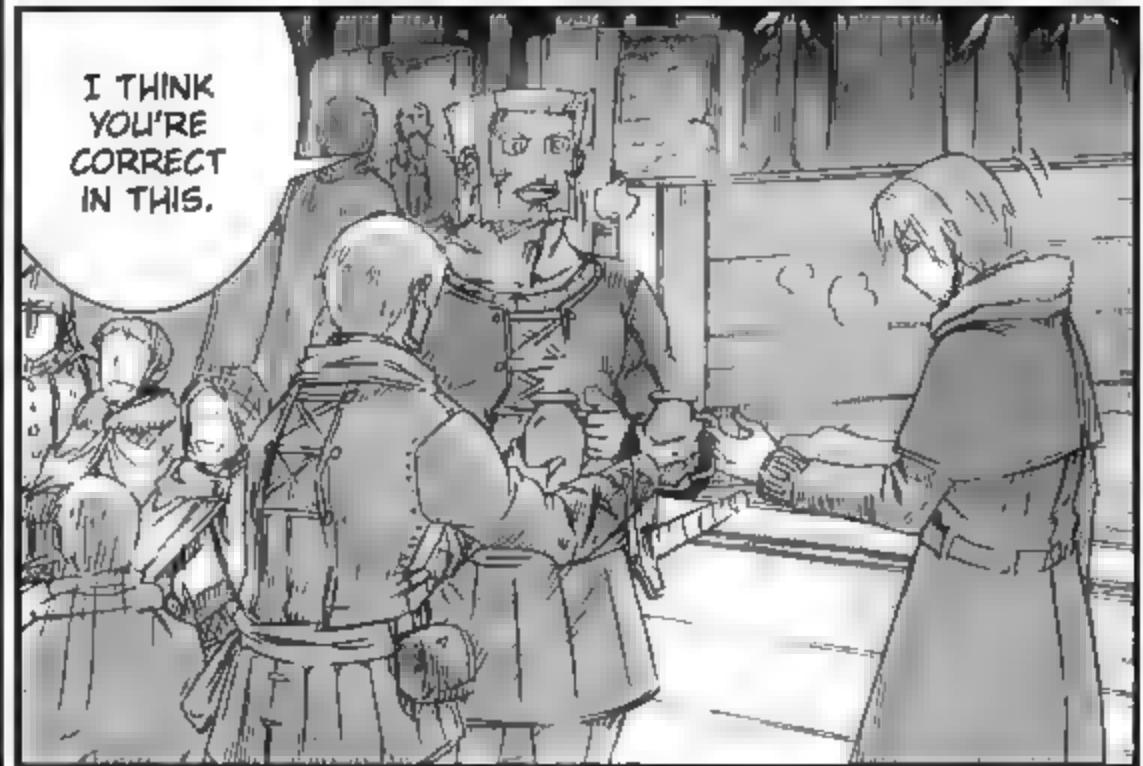


















SPICE & WOLF



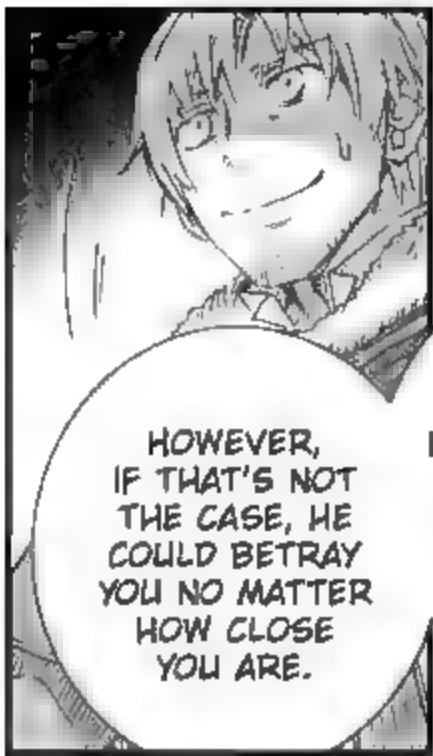


THIS AMAZING PERSON SAVED AND SAVED...

...PUTTING THEIR OWN AND OTHERS' LIVES AT STAKE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.









BUT THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF MONEY A MERCHANT CAN WRITE ON PAPER.



THEY'VE
FAILED
HERE...



SO WE
SHALL FIGHT
ON UNTIL THAT
DAY COMES.



...STILL.



...BUT
MERCHANTS
MIGHT TRULY
BE THE RULERS
OF THE WORLD
SOMEDAY.





STRIFE IN THE
NORTHLANDS
DOES WORRY
ME SOME.



I WONDER
WHAT MISS HOLO
PLANS TO DO. YOU
THINK SHE CAN
SLOW DOWN THE
CONFLICT, EVEN
A LITTLE?



I'VE
HEARD THAT
THE OPPosition
ARE GATHERING
IN SVERNEL.

BUT
IT'S NO
USE.



HOLO HAS
ALREADY
MADE UP
HER MIND.

WE TOO MUST
WORK SO THAT
WE BRING NO
SHAME TO OUR
BANNER.

DON'T
ETHWID

I'M
IMRESSED.

IT'S A
HARD DECISION,
BUT ONE THAT
MUST BE MADE.

BUT FIRST,
WE'LL WAIT
AND SEE.

DAMN
RIGHT WE
WILL.







BUT WHEN
THE SUN
RISES...



...ALL OF
THAT IS
WASHED
AWAY.

AFTER
SEEING THAT
SUNRISE.....



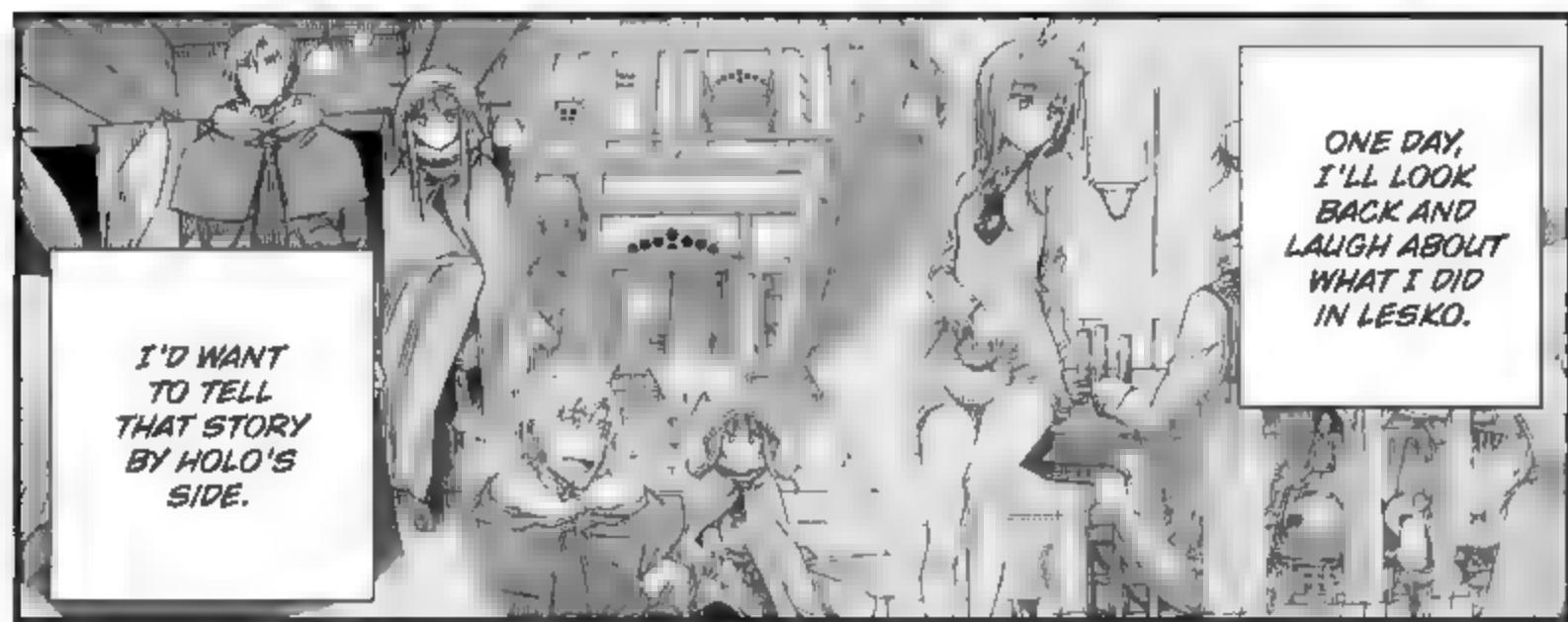
...I CAN'T
QUIT THE
MERCENARY
LIFE.





YOU HAVE TO GIVE THINGS UP TO CHANGE YOUR COURSE. THAT'S WHY TRAVELERS NEVER STAY LONG IN VILLAGES WITH GENTLE SOULS.

LESKO, HUH.....?



LIFE IS SHORT. THE SOONER WE GO, THE BETTER.

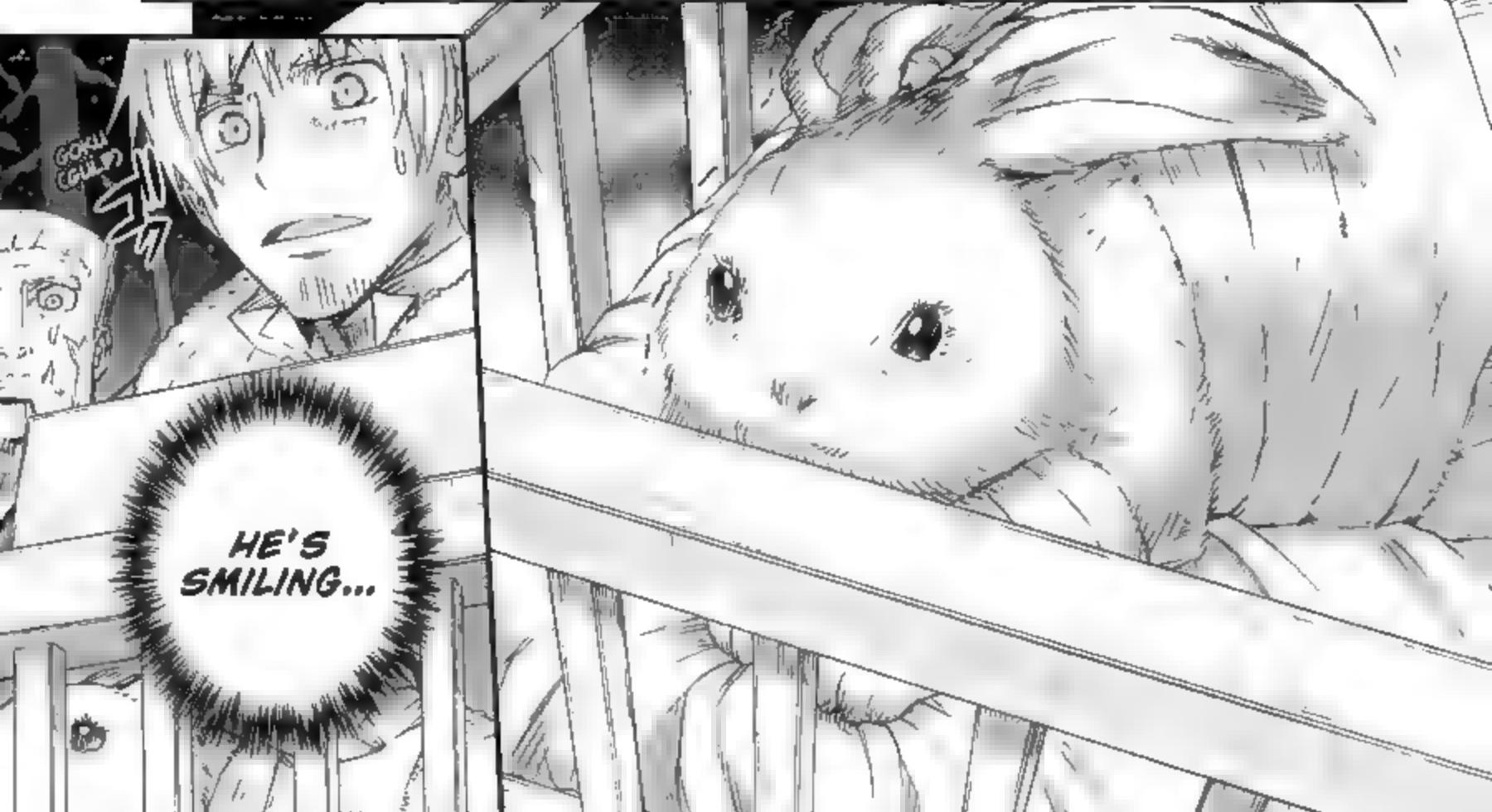




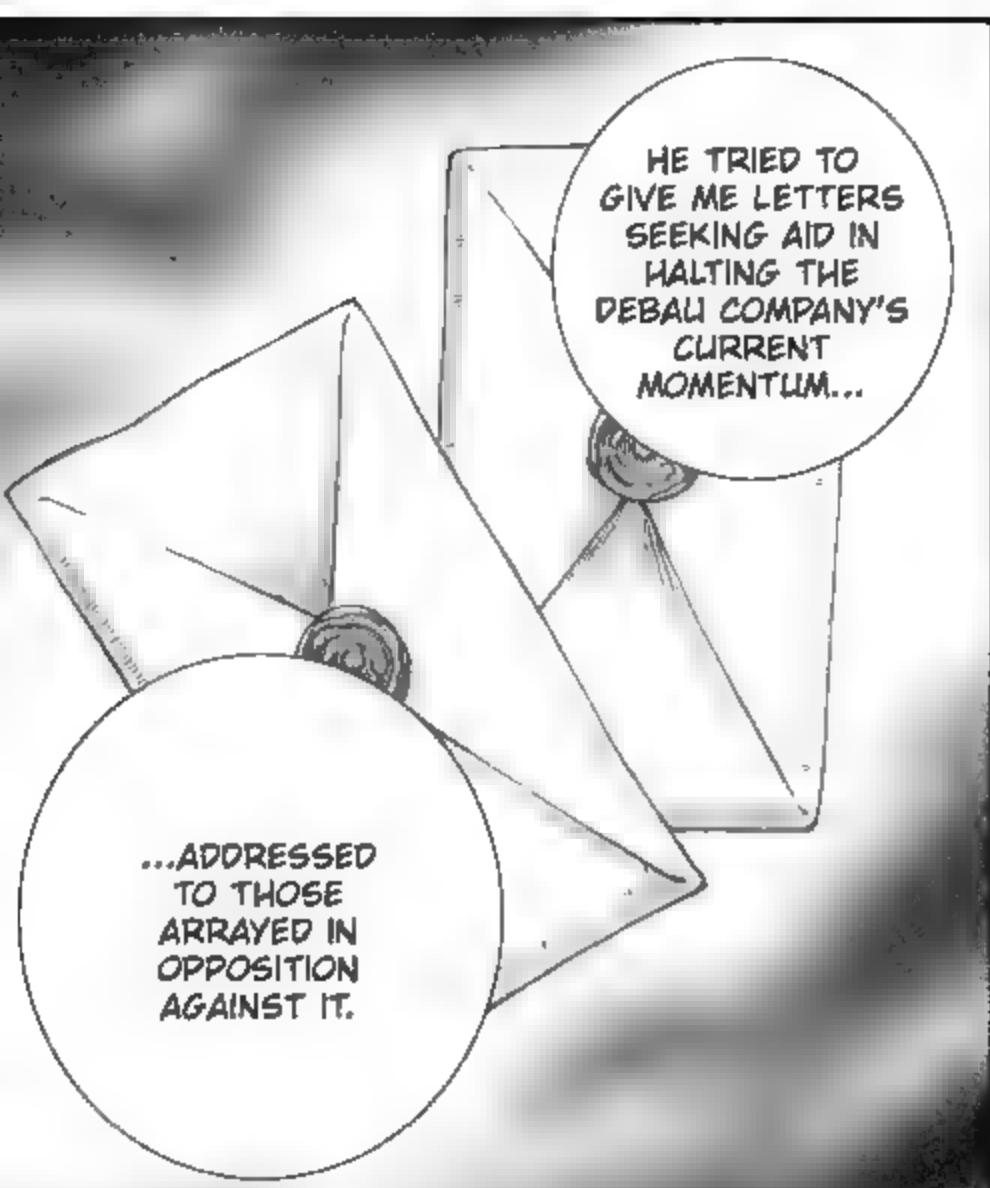
GET IT
THROUGH
YOUR HEAD
ALREADY.

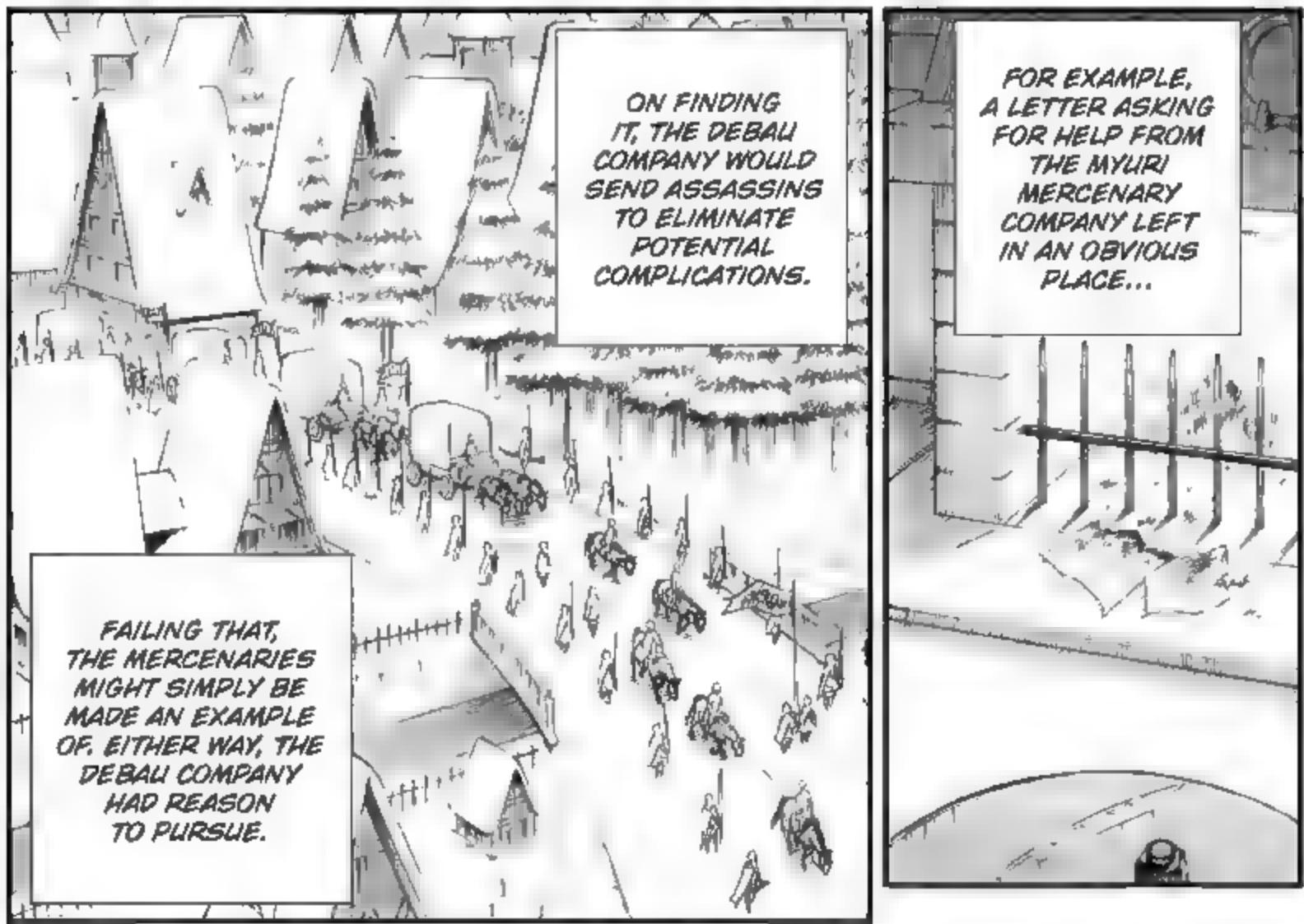








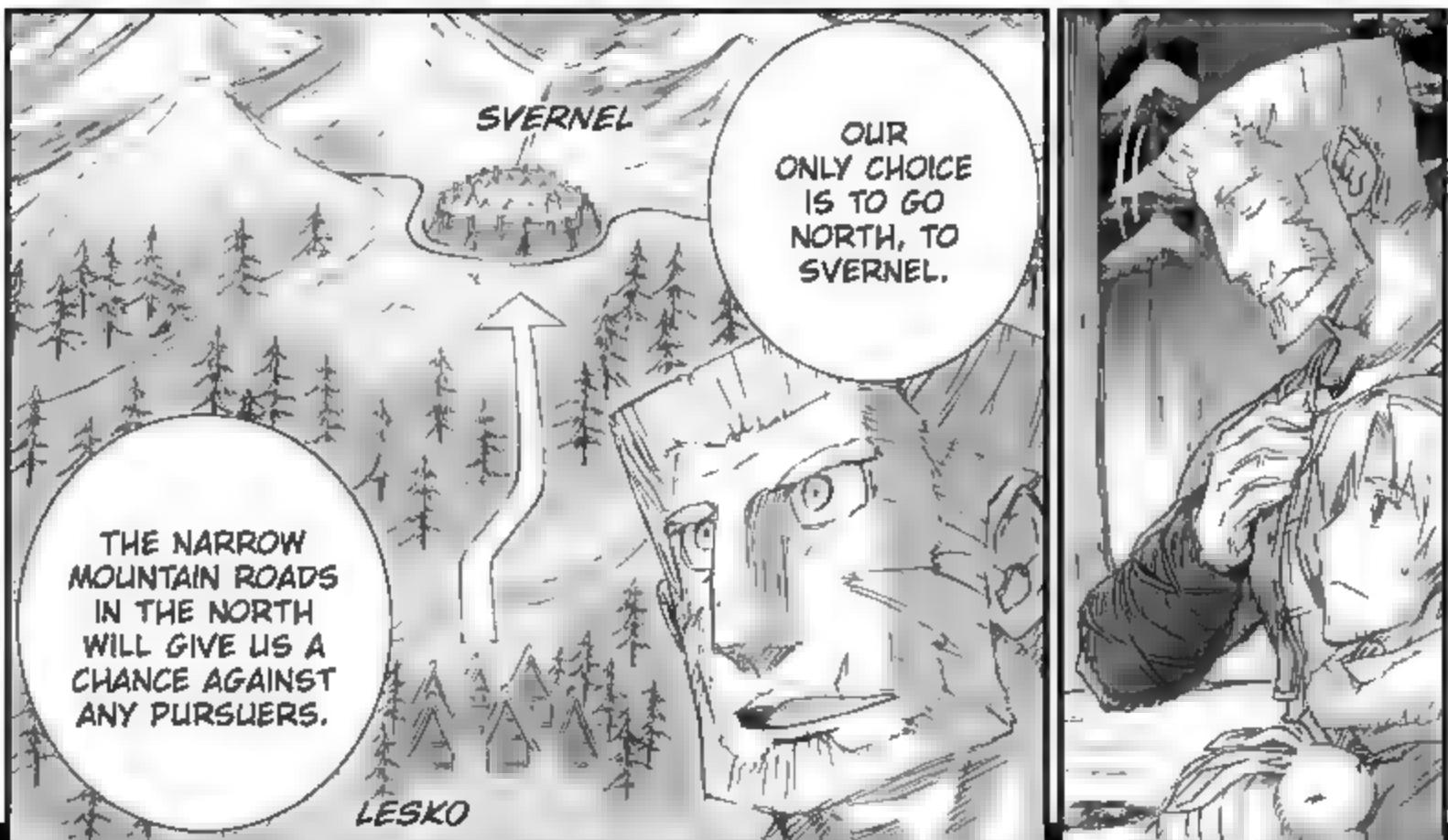














WE MUST
RESPECT
HIM.



SOMETIMES,
A SINGLE
ARROW CAN
TURN THE
TABLES IN
WAR.



HE
MANAGED
THAT WITH
JUST ONE
WORD.

WE'LL GO
ALONG WITH
HIS PLAN
AND DANCE
BEAUTIFULLY
FOR HIM.

MY APOLOGIES,
MR. LAWRENCE,
BUT I LEAVE
HIM TO YOU.

I HAVE
SOME
WORK
TO DO.



To be continued in Volume 15...

AFTERWORD

THIS IS KOUME KEITO, ARTIST OF THE SPICE AND WOLF MANGA. IT'S WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR, THE ORIGINAL NOVELS HAVE STARTED UP AGAIN—AND TWO OF THEM AT THAT! DUE TO SUCH A HAPPY OCCASION, THE MANGA VERSION WILL NOW BE COMING OUT STRONG AS WELL.

• I REALLY THANK ALL THE READERS WHO HAVE STAYED WITH US THUS FAR.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I'D LIKE TO SHOW BEFORE WE REACH OUR GOAL, SO I'D BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU STUCK AROUND.

KOUME
KEITO

KOUME
KEITO
2016.9

Special
Thanks!

PRIVATE MR. OKAMOTO,
MR. TENTSU TOI,
MR. YAKKUN,
MR. N-TA

SPICE & WOLF 14

ISUNA HASEKURA
KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: JASMINE BERNHARDT

LETTERING: KATIE BLAKESLEE

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